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ON SATURDAY
No.27 April 24, 2010

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

The newspaper that's just 'SO' Tunbridge Wells www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk
Compliments of Lincoln Furniture Warehouse at the end of the Pantiles

SPACEMAN READY FOR A FINAL SHUTTLE MISSION

Picture: NASA

ASTRONAUT Piers Sellers is getting ready to blast into space once again.

The former Cranbrook School pupil will be on board one of the last ever space shuttle missions, taking off from the Kennedy Space Center, in Florida, USA, next month.

But before taking to the stars, he found time to speak to us about just what it is like to look down on the planet Earth.

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

NOWHERE IS SAFE FROM OUR SURGE, SAYS CLEGG

Are Tory heartlands facing tough new battle?

EXCLUSIVE

By JENNA PUDELEK

LIBERAL Democrat leader Nick Clegg says his party's rise in popularity could blow the election wide open in west Kent.

Speaking to this newspaper prior to Thursday night's second leaders' debate, Mr Clegg says the boom in support over the past week added vigour to campaigners locally and injected an "anything is possible" mentality – even in the traditional Tory heartland here.

Since he impressed millions in the first televised debate, the Lib Dems have leapt from a distant third to – remarkably – even leading some opinion polls.

And despite the seats of Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & Malling and Sevenoaks being true blue with huge majorities, Mr Clegg believes his party could now spring a few surprises.

Mr Clegg told us: "What has happened in the last week shows that there is an appetite for change all across the country, but it has to be change for the better, change that makes Britain fairer.

"This election is wide open and all sorts of previous assumptions have gone out of the window. In Kent, like the country as a whole, anything is possible because a growing number of people are starting to believe that we can do things differently."

On the campaign trail in Tunbridge Wells, the party's prospective parliamentary candidate, David Hallas, told of vehicles tooting at him while out canvassing and people calling their support from car windows.

Mr Hallas said: "Since the first TV debate things have gone pretty crazy.

"People are starting to think it's going to be exceptionally close between us and the Tories in Tunbridge Wells.

"Everyone knows it's a two-horse race between us and the Conservatives and it's going to be down to the wire on election night. A surprise could be on the cards."

He had noticed an increase in support

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

IN TOMORROW'S

The newspaper that's just 'SO' Tunbridge Wells ON SUNDAY
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NEWS

• Why this week's flights chaos has prompted renewed calls for us to become more reliant on locally produced food and drink

• Why a wedding from the 1930s is being recreated at Scotney Castle

SPORT

• Sevenoaks racing driver Mike Conway discusses his hopes as he begins his preparations for the renowned Indy 500 next month

Nowhere is safe from the 'Clegg effect'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

for his party even before Mr Clegg's TV appearance, after their manifesto launch, he said.

Reaction to Mr Clegg's performance on the second leaders' debate was still being considered at the time of going to press, but by Thursday morning the backlash against the Clegg effect had begun to mount with a series of critical front-page stories in national newspapers which traditionally support the Conservatives.

Meanwhile, a Lib Dem campaign insider confided: "What we have seen since the first debate is the culmination of something that has been building for a while.

"People are fed up with politics as usual and they are fed up of being told the choice is between one exhausted old party and another.

"What Nick Clegg has shown people is that there is another way. But this is not a one-man band.

"People like Vince Cable, Chris Huhne and David Laws have shown we have real strength in depth, and candidates like Peter Carroll in Maidstone, who led the Gurkha rights campaign with Joanna Lumley, are offering people a real chance to break with tradition and do something better."

In Sevenoaks, candidate Alan Bullion said that the Lib Dems' new-found popularity had "changed the dynamics of the whole debate

PICTURE:: Alex Folkes
NICK CLEGG: Liberal Democrat leader

and campaign". He said: "The campaign has taken off. This has electrified it – and it's really exciting.The Lib Dems have been able to get a foot in the door. People at the weekend said, 'We saw your bloke on the telly and liked what he said'.

"They are listening to what we are saying and reading our leaflets. The Tories can't say a Lib Dem vote is a wasted vote now. Clearly we will have a big influence on the next government, by the look of the polls. Everything is up in the air – it's a three-party contest rather than just the old Labour and Conservative duopoly."

On the prospect of a hung Parliament, he said: "We feel excited about this. At times of economic difficulties coalition governments worked very well in other countries. There's no reason to suppose a balanced government could not work well in Britain."

The Lib Dems are also hopeful of building inroads into the massive Tory majority at the Town Hall, where they have 44 of the 48 seats on the council.

On May 6, residents in Tunbridge Wells will also be voting in the borough council elections.

David Neve, who is hoping to be re-elected in St James' ward, said the Lib Dems' popularity nationally was winning them more support locally.

"One man said he always votes for us locally and is now thinking of doing so nationally," he said. "It has also had the same effect the opposite way round. Hopefully it will translate into seats on election day."

Mr Neve said he hoped the party could win at least two more seats in the borough elections.

Of the Tory dominance, he said: "We need an opposition, whether it's the Lib Dems or Labour.

"We need opposition to the majority party so they have to listen and hopefully we'll get that this time round."

• See pages 11-15 for more General Election coverage. Email us your views on the race to Westminster: Do you think the Lib Dems can spring a shock? Email: westkent@kosmedia.co.uk.

We share same vision, Pantiles traders insist

PANTILES traders have hit back at claims they are "lazy retirees" and outlined their vision for improving the historic shopping parade, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

Tenants were eager to have their say after property tycoon Ardeshir Naghshineh, the chairman and founder of Targetfollow, which owns the estate, criticised them in in this newspaper last week.

Alan Wood, co-chair of the Pantiles Tenants' Association, said: "We are committed to improving the Pantiles and increasing footfall.

"Without exception rent has been an issue in not being able to fill the five [empty] units.

"We are not looking for a battle; we want to work with them and be constructive. That is so important, but we need more consultation on how we can help them and they can help us."

Last week, Mr Naghshineh said "some of the tenants are retirees". He criticised them for not opening their shops until late, claiming "they roll in at 10am or 11am. They're not doing enough sales".

Mr Wood, who owns the parade's flagship cookware specialist Trevor Mottram, said: "We can't afford to retire. We're certainly not retiring from the point of view of the hours we work. The majority of the shops, including five of the retail stores and the pubs and cafés, open seven days a week. We put a lot of effort into our businesses."

His co-chair, Steve Marshall, of the Pantiles Book Shop, said: "It was rather galling, because there was some indication that we're not committed to our businesses and to making a success of it. It was rather offensive and I don't know what provoked him into making these observations."

Both shop owners were adamant that they did not want to get into a situation of "trading blows" with their landlord over the comments.

"We are trying to work with Targetfollow," Mr Marshall said. "We feel if Ardeshir had met us he would not be under a complete misapprehension as to how we all work here.

"Both sides – the tenants and the landlord – have to work together. The key is communication between us and I think at times that has been lacking. "We are not looking to trade blows, we want to work with the landlord want to develop footfall so we both benefit. If we are successful, clearly the landlord will be successful too."

Ian Carvell, director of the Pantiles Hotel, formerly the Swan, said: "I've worked with the landlord and the police to do everything we can to make it much more family friendly downstairs. I have a vision and have worked hard on making it a welcoming place for everybody. It has not just been Targetfollow. We have worked together."

He said he was spending more than £100,000 on redecorating and modernising the 20-bed, three-star hotel.

However, traders are excited about the prospect of the British fashion brand Jack Wills opening in the Pantiles this summer.

Mr Marshall said the label, which is fashionable among teenagers and young people, would bring a new audience to the parade.

He added: "There is enormous potential for the Pantiles to be a real success in the way The Lanes in Brighton are. Visitors like it here, but we must see the shops all occupied to help with further development."

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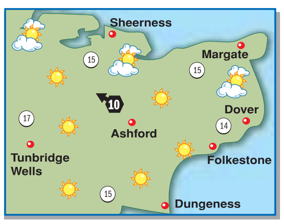
Weather



Today

After a cold and clear start with frost in places, it looks set to be a fine day. It is going to be dry with prolonged periods of sunshine and just a little patchy cloud at times. Staying fine in the evening too with some late sunshine. Light south-easterly winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).

Sun & Moon

Sunrise	5.41am	Sunset	8.07pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	3.18pm	Moonset	3.38am	8.07pm to 5.39am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	08.24	5.7	20.51	6.0	09.24	6.0	21.45	6.3
Margate	09.12	4.2	21.37	4.2	10.18	4.4	22.39	4.5
St Mary's	01.35	4.8	14.17	4.7	02.42	5.1	15.15	5.1

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	10	50	Edinburgh	cloudy	14	57	Newcastle	fair	15	59
Belfast	cloudy	14	57	Glasgow	fair	15	59	Norwich	sun	15	59
B'ham	fair	18	64	Isle of Man	fair	14	57	Oxford	sun	19	66
B'mouth	fair	16	61	Leeds	fair	16	61	Southsea	sun	17	63
Bristol	sun	13	55	London	sun	19	66	S'hampton	sun	17	63
Cardiff	sun	17	63	Liverpool	fair	17	63	Southport	sun	16	61
Cork	rain	12	54	Manchester	sun	18	64	Swansea	sun	14	57

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Mission accomplished for comedy pop duo's youth vote election campaign

Golly Gosh put act on hold for new projects

COMEDY pop duo Golly Gosh are to put the posh act on hold after making national headlines encouraging local youngsters to register to vote.

The group – Tom Adolph, 20, and Nathan Whiting, 22 – shot to fame last year after a video of them rapping about the town made headlines and drew more than 20,000 hits on online video site YouTube.

And they were in the headlines again this month after they spearheaded a push by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to encourage youngsters to register to vote ahead of next month's General Election.

A specially created video, filmed in and around the Town Hall, has already attracted well over 2,000 hits and made national headlines.

By **JAMES BENJAMIN**

But the duo behind the posh pair say Golly Gosh are going to go on ice while they concentrate on more serious music.

Mr Adolph, who books bands at The Forum explained: "As Golly Gosh we've released an EP and did a gig and stuff. But we try to stay creative and we'd go mad if we did Golly Gosh all the time."

Mr Whiting, who studied music technology at university, said: "We want to do something fresh and have started discussing a project.

"It doesn't mean we won't come back to Golly Gosh, but we need to try out some other things."

When the pair hit the stage again, the chances are it will be a far cry from the comedy rapping of the posh pair that has made them famous around the county.

Mr Adolph said: "All our mates are in credible indie bands, so when we came out as Golly Gosh everyone thought, 'Oh, this is a bit different'. Now we want to do that in reverse."

At a recent live performance to promote the push to vote in the General Election, more than 50 fans turned out to watch the group at the Ape record store in the town centre.

However, plans on their new project have yet to be revealed.

Mr Whiting said: "We want to work with other people. There will be a new member of the team.

"We'd like to do some video stuff too. I'm interested in doing a radio play – a comedy drama."

• ***Videos produced by the duo are available to view on YouTube. To watch them, click on www.youtube.com/mrbassman.***

TOFF AT THE TOP: Tom Adolph and Nathan Whiting

Teacher at Diana's old school had child sex abuse images

THE deputy head of Princess Diana's former school has admitted possessing indecent images of children.

William Whillock, of Headcorn Road, Staplehurst, pleaded guilty to four counts of possessing child sex abuse images during a hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday.

The charges relate to "six or seven" photos graded at level one – the least serious category for child abuse images. The 56-year-old, who was known as Bill to colleagues, was in charge of child protection at The New School at West Heath, Sevenoaks.

He was ordered not to apply for any job working with children and released on bail to be sentenced on May 21.

The teacher pleaded not guilty to a fifth count of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and it was agreed the charge would remain on file. Police seized his computer during a search of his office after being called in by headteacher Christina Wells. He was arrested on January 14.

Princess Diana attended West Heath in the 1970s when it was a private girls boarding school and once said she had "loved" being there.

The school went into receivership, coincidently, on the day the Princess and her partner, Dodi Fayed, were killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997.

But it was saved by Dodi's father Mohammed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, who gave a huge donation to keep the school running in memory of his son and Diana.

It reopened in September, 1998, as The New School at West Heath, a special school which aims to rebuild the lives of youngsters who have suffered trauma or abuse.

Rape threat arrest

A TEENAGER has been arrested for allegedly threatening to rape pop star Cheryl Cole.

The 17-year-old from Tunbridge Wells is accused of leaving a "malicious" message on the voicemail of a mobile phone belonging to Ms Cole's X Factor co-star Dermot O'Leary last month. He has been released on police bail pending further investigation.

Girls Aloud star Ms Cole, 26, who recently split up with Chelsea and England footballer Ashley Cole, is said to have been alerted to the threat.

THE first of seven new oaks will be planted in Sevenoaks on Tuesday.

Each mayor for the next seven years will plant an oak tree on Brittain's Common.

The first will be planted by Cllr Ann Dawson, the town mayor, and be attended by other dignitaries.

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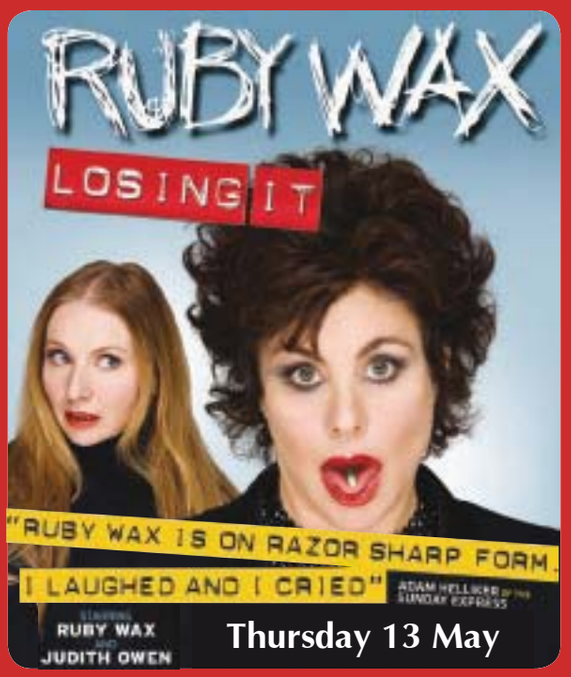

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Picture: MATT HOBBY

Adventure put on ice

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A GROUP of adventurers have been waiting anxiously to hear when the Icelandic volcanic ash had cleared enough to allow them to fly out to the Arctic to study the impact of climate change.

Science leader Rosey Grant, 27, a PhD student from Hawkhurst, said they were due to leave last Saturday for the archipelago of Svalbard, but the trip had to be put on hold and by Monday they were considering other routes to their destination.

The expedition, which will see them brave plunging temperatures of -25°C, has been organised by the British Schools Exploring Society. Miss Grant will be one of two leaders of the science element of the two-month adventure, heading up a group of 18 to 23-year-old undergraduate students.

"We will spend one month doing mountaineering and exploration work and the second doing a couple of science projects looking at geology and ornithology," she said.

"Climate change is the main motivation for the work, particularly this season it has been a really warm winter so it will be particularly interesting to see how that has had an effect on the island as a whole and the changes it's made."

Miss Grant, who is soon to complete her PhD in atmospheric physics looking at the air flows of mountainous areas at Leeds University, faces a challenging two months of camping.

When the team arrives in Longyearbyen, the administrative centre of Svalbard, on the western coast of the largest island, Spitsbergen, they will be trained in polar bear defence, arctic living and safe travel while staying in the comfort of a guesthouse.

They will then travel to the first expedition base camp using 'pulks' (sledges) and skis. As the Arctic spring turns to summer they will experience 24 hours of daylight when temperatures will rise to 0°C when the winter snow and ice will melt to reveal the tundra beneath.

"I'm really excited, but nervous as well; just pre-trip jitters," Miss Grant, who has been training for the trip by dragging a loaded sledge through Bedgebury Pinetum, said.

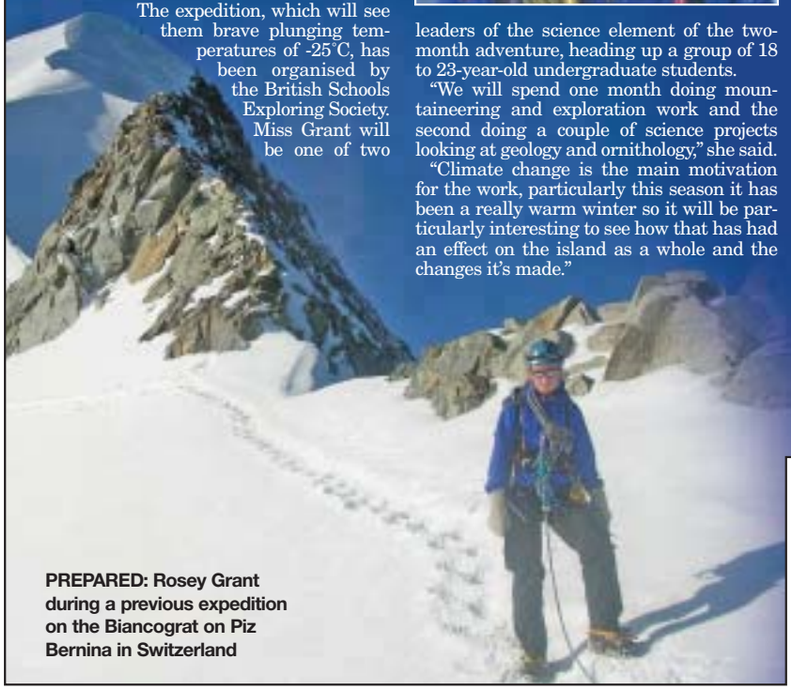
"It is the first time I'm doing something in the capacity of being responsible for other people. When I've been away before I've been away with my mates when you are responsible for each other or under the leadership of someone else."

She will be following in the footsteps of her father, who travelled to Norway with the same organisation in 1965.

"I'm coming to the end of my PhD and I wanted to do something a bit unusual," she added. "My father had a good time.

"He got sent an old VHS of it by a filmmaker he was travelling with, so he has a black and white tape of it.

"I wanted to do something a bit different and this was the perfect opportunity."



PREPARED: Rosey Grant during a previous expedition on the Biancograt on Piz Bernina in Switzerland

Bronzes stolen

A LARGE fountain has been stolen from the driveway of a house near Edenbridge days after a statue of a young woman was taken from a garden nearby.

Police have appealed for information after the 5ft 5ins bronze resin figurine was broken off the concrete plinth, leaving behind its feet, from a property in Hartfield Road, Cowden between April 7 and 9.

In a similar theft, an 8ft bronze fountain with three galloping horses on it was taken from the driveway of a house in Stick Hill between midnight and 7.50am on April 15.

School's made up

THE county's first professional film, TV and fashion make-over academy opens on Wednesday.

And The Powers Academy – led by Bafta award-winning make-up artist Chrissie Powers – says there may be some famous faces turning out to mark the occasion.

The academy is set in the grounds of Sackville School, Hildenborough. It will offer courses for both for adults and students wishing to combine a professional certificate in make-up design with an academic course.

Sportsman's visit

BRITISH and Commonwealth judo champion Tom Davis paid a special visit to a school in Cranbrook this week.

The star turned up at Angley Sports College on Monday to support the school's participation in the Youth Sport Trust's Sky Sports Living for Sport programme.

Mr Davis said: "It was a pleasure to meet the young people."

Grant helps charity keep people mobile

A CHARITY that gives independence and dignity to more than 1,100 people with disabilities has told how a funding boost of £17,000 will allow it to continue its work.

Shopmobility is among 18 local organisations and charities that received a share of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's community grants scheme, worth a total of £390,590.

Lucy Dawe, treasurer and secretary of the Royal Victoria Place-based charity, which rents out mobility scooters and wheelchairs, said: "The grant covers the core costs to pay members of staff. It is absolutely vital to keeping the place open."

She said the money will allow the charity to pay three part-time staff, which means the shop can operate six days a week.

People with disabilities are charged a small amount to hire the equipment, she said. However, if the shop had to cover its own costs it would have to charge considerably more.

"To actually become totally self-funding with the hire of the machines it would put us out of reach of the people we try to support. Most people in the position of paying buy their own," she said.

"We tend to find the people that use us are on low incomes, disabled and those with short term disabilities who are only on statutory sick pay and certainly could not afford to buy themselves something.

"We try to fill the gap between those who can afford to and those who just about scrape by on low incomes."

The charity covers Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas, including Tonbridge and Crowborough.

Mrs Dawe added: "It is a vital service for vulnerable people. Without the support of the borough council we would not be able to run with the hours we do. We know the council is having its funds squeezed, but we do feel this service is vital for the community.

"We bring a little bit of independence and dignity to people who would be housebound."

Other organisations awarded vital grants include the Tunbridge Wells Citizens' Advice Bureaux (£199,000), the town's Age Concern (£88,000), VSU Youth in Action (£6,800), and the Bangladeshi Welfare Association (£940).

Cranbrook Museum, which is staffed entirely by volunteers, was awarded £4,000 to cover its running costs such as conservation, utility bills and a new display cabinet for exhibiting some of the archives currently hidden in the vaults.

For more information about the grants scheme visit www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

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A feast of fashion

By **MELISSA WOODLAND**
westkent@kosmedia.co.uk

STYLE was the watch-word at Royal Victoria Place last weekend as the fashionfest'10's live catwalk shows landed at the shopping centre.

The culmination of a week-long fashion extravaganza sponsored by this newspaper and So Tunbridge Wells magazine, the runway events on Friday and Saturday showcased the latest looks for men, women and children.

From formal wear to sports wear, footwear to accessories, shoppers were able to draw inspiration from the six live shows on both days. Each show was specially choreographed to reveal the latest new season trends which include floral prints, hot tropical colours, candy fantasy and boudoir glamour.

Senior marketing manager of Westfield Royal Victoria Place, Marc Burchett, said: "The fashionfest'10 live shows were a huge success this year and really gave the opportunity for our fashion stores to inspire shoppers of all ages with the hottest new trends and styles now available.

He continued, "We've received some great feedback so far and some retailers have even reported selling out of items featured."

The catwalk shows, which featured seven professional models and two children, were a feast of choreography, stage lighting, music, dance and special effects. Two distinct collections were shown over the weekend. Easy-to-wear lifestyle brands shared the stage with high-fashion pieces, ensuring there was something that would appeal to everyone.

Everyday workwear was represented by Fenwick, French Connection, Hobbs and Elvi, while laid back leisurewear retailers including Superdry, Gas Station, Republic and Gap. Inspiring accessories were provided by Pandora, Claire's Accessories and Sunglass Hut. Then beach-friendly looks were supplied by Jane Norman and Ann Summers.

Nearly 70,000 shoppers visited Royal Victoria Place over the two-day event, with thousands taking time out of their shopping trip to check out the latest looks.

As well as the catwalk shows, visitors to the centre were able to take part in beauty style workshops with Clarins, Fashion Frenzy for children and had the chance to win a £500 styling experience.

fashionfest'10 in numbers

Live catwalk shows: twelve
Models: nine
Different outfits shown: 150
Stores participating: 30+
Stylists: three
Visitors to fashionfest'10: 70,000

Who was there when

Show one
Gas Station, Kaos, H&M, Superdry, Select, Elvi, Claire's Accessories, Yumi, Dolly Rocks, Animal, Republic, Gap, Gap Kids and Faith

Show two
Fenwick, Elvi, Hobbs, French Connection, Mothercare, Sunglass Hut, Pandora, La Senza, Ann Summers, Claire's Accessories, Bhs, River Island, Jane Norman, Next, Jo Jo Maman Bébe and M&S

Award raises a glass of real ale to pub's success

A PUB will be presented with an award this weekend in recognition of the quality of its real ale, ciders and perries.

The Royal Oak pub in Tunbridge Wells has been chosen as West Kent CAMRA's runner-up in its Pub of the Year awards.

ACHIEVEMENT: The Royal Oak 'came from nowhere' to claim the runner up spot

By JON COATES
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

Members of the regional branch of the Campaign for Real Ale will be meeting for lunch at the pub in Prospect Road on Sunday from noon, with live jazz lined up as the entertainment.

During the get-together they will enjoy a pint or two of the pub's real ale and present its landlord with the coveted award.

A CAMRA spokesman said: "The award is made by the branch every year to recognise the achievement of the west Kent pubs that consistently serve the best quality real ales, ciders and perries.

"The Royal Oak's achievement in gaining this award is especially notable by 'coming from nowhere' in the sense that the current management have completely turned the pub round in the couple of years they've been in residence, including entry in the Good Beer Guide, CAMRA's guide to the best real ale pubs.

"Pubs often have to prove themselves over several years to stand a chance of such an award, but the Royal Oak has been outstanding in its offering of quality and choice of ales, including those with local provenance."

More than 700 real ale breweries are listed by CAMRA across the UK, which includes small craft brewers as well as national and regional breweries.

The CAMRA spokesman said: "It requires skill and care by the publican to ensure real ale is served at its best. When it is though, a huge and delicious variety of styles and flavours is available.

"It's also widely recognised that pubs known for real ale quality are usually also the most well-kept and convivial pubs around, and that's certainly true of this award winner."

People are invited to come along to the presentation event on Sunday and sample the real ale on offer.

Police on their bikes

OFFICERS from the police's motorcycle team have been using off-road bikes to patrol areas where families have complained about nuisance riders.

Residents had told neighbourhood officers that off-road bikes were becoming a problem in Whiteoak and St Mary's wards in Swanley, in West Kingsdown and in New Ash Green.

The team will continue to patrol these areas until the issue is solved.

Car crash head injury

A WOMAN was treated for a minor head injury when two cars collided.

Police said a red Vauxhall Corsa hit a silver Mercedes in Sevenoaks Road, Seal, last Sunday, April 18, at 6.50pm.

The woman was treated by paramedics at the scene, but did not need to go to hospital.

THE MAGIC OF BEING CLOSE TO BIG CATS
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JON COATES speaks to some of the travellers marooned home and abroad

Ash casts a cloud over our holidays

HUNDREDS of people from west Kent were desperately trying to get home this weekend after being stranded abroad by the volcanic ash cloud that swept across the sky.

The Civil Aviation Authority lifted the flight ban on Tuesday evening and the first stranded passengers started arriving back at English airports on Wednesday.

But travel operators in west Kent warned that it would take a few days for the airlines to deal with the backlog.

Those eager to get back included a group of 60 pupils and six teachers from The Judd School in Tonbridge, who made headline news across the globe when they were stranded in the US after a skiing trip during their Easter holiday break.

The 13-to-16-year-old boys had spent five days on the slopes of Killington ski resort in Vermont, before taking a six-hour bus ride to New York for their flight home last Saturday.

After calling to ask if they could return to the 50-room Mountain Inn in Killington, the weary group checked back into their rooms at 2am last Sunday.

The hotel manager Chirag Patel had been planning to close the venue for a couple of months on that Sunday after the end of the ski season. But instead he called in two housekeepers – and his mother and father – and made up the beds for the 66 guests.

Two local restaurants agreed to provide dinners and buses to and from the inn.

The top-rated grammar school in Brook Street, Tonbridge, which has 920 boys aged 11 to 18, and 40 girls aged 16 to 18 in its sixth form, wired money to teacher Martin Rivers to help pay for activities like ten-pin bowling, films and rock-climbing, as well as sending study materials.

The groups then settled into a routine of morning lessons and an afternoon activity, before an evening meal and a film.

They were hoping to fly home this weekend to be back for school on Monday morning.

Travel agents in west Kent said they were also hoping to arrange flights for the stranded this weekend, or at least to let them know when they will be able to come back.

Gill Cunningham, branch manager of Sevenoaks Travel, said: "Our clients affected abroad have been taken care of by their tour operators and the airlines.

"Most are glad they were on package holidays, as they are protected and being looked after in their resorts by the operators.

"We have not had too many disgruntled passengers, but we have been taking a lot of calls, which has kept us very busy.

"We have been trying to rearrange flights for clients abroad, but even though the UK airports are now open, it will take a few days to deal with the backlog, so we do not know when everyone will get to fly home."

Some of the charter flights operating out of Biggin Hill Airport, near Westerham, were also grounded by the ash cloud.

But there was a lot of demand for the low level flights which were still able to operate, as well as for helicopters, from people stranded on the Continent.

Families trying to leave the country for holidays also suffered frustration, with some missing out entirely or having to pay large amounts to rebook this week.

John Banks, from Tunbridge Wells, had been due to fly to his apartment near Malaga in Spain on Wednesday morning for a week's holiday with his wife.

After being told on Tuesday night that his Monarch flight would not leave on Wednesday morning he did not go to the airport and missed it.

He ended up paying £800 for two single flights to Malaga, which is 15 times more than the ones he had previously booked.

He said: "It was either fork out the cash or miss the holiday completely, which I have been looking forward to for months."

Ms Cunningham said people had missed cruises booked through her agency as a result of missing connecting flights.

But for some the grounding of commercial aircraft brought relief, with families living in Edenbridge saying it was nice to have a break from the noise of planes passing over their homes having taken off from Gatwick Airport.

Trust says thank you

THE National Trust opened the doors to its properties to foreign travellers stranded in the UK by the volcanic ash cloud.

After being impressed by the generosity shown to the estimated 150,000 Britons stranded abroad after UK airports were closed, Trust bosses decided to make the gesture in return to thank the countries involved.

From Tuesday, travellers simply had to arrive at a National Trust property with a flight ticket from the affected period together with their passport.

This offer, which applied to country estates including Chartwell, near Westerham, Knole in Sevenoaks and Scotney Castle, near Lamberhurst, will run as long as people remain stuck in the UK.

Fiona Reynolds, director general of the National Trust, said: "British travellers stranded overseas have been shown tremendous hospitality by their hosts.

"This offer is a way of reciprocating that kindness and saying thank you on behalf of the country."

It's time to re-think air travel

CHAOS caused to holidaymakers and business travellers by the volcanic ash should make us re-evaluate our dependency on air travel, the Kent Green Party has said.

Hazel Dawe, the party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Tunbridge Wells, said British travellers were particularly hard hit by the aeroplane restrictions because we fly more per head than any other country in the world.

But despite the obvious environmental benefits of a lack of pollution caused by the flights criss-crossing the skies of Kent, Dr Dawe took no joy from the situation, saying: "I can't really celebrate when I think of the trauma and distress it's caused to so many."

However, she added that she wondered if the travellers stuck around the world would consider more carefully whether such a long journey by air was a good idea.

"I think it does show we need to wean ourselves off this dependency on air travel," she said. "More people should take holidays in the UK. Kent is brilliantly positioned because it has so many attractions."

GROUNDED: Our skies were clear of planes for six days due to the ash cloud

Volcanic ash has the opposite effect of fossil fuels because it has a cooling effect, which can affect the temperatures on earth.

A geo-science expert writing for the Guardian said that because the Icelandic eruption was small, so far, it should not have a significant impact on climate.

The volcano is also producing tens of thousands of tonnes of CO_2 each day, but experts say that even at its peak it was only emitting about one-thousandth of that of human activities such as fossil-fuel burning, deforestation and agriculture.

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Linda to stay as head of the Stag

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

THE woman tasked with saving a town's theatre and cinema from closure, as well as running its council, will continue in her dual role.

Linda Larter MBE has been the town clerk of Sevenoaks Town Council since 2008 but also took on the role of keeping the Stag Theatre open when it ran into financial difficulties last May. She was seconded to the Stag for a year to give its management stability after several failed ventures.

The formation of the Stag Community Arts Centre, which includes the theatre, cinema and a cafe, has put the London Road venue on a sound financial footing.

Sevenoaks District Council signed over the management of the Stag on a long-term leasing agreement last December.

This will give the town council the time to plan for its future, apply for grants and build up reserves – as long as the community continue to show their support by using it.

A recent full town council meeting voted to continue with Mrs Larter, 46, jointly managing both the council and the Stag Community Arts Centre until September 2011.

A town council spokeswoman said: "Under her leadership the Stag Community Arts Centre has moved from a considerable liability to a vibrant community facility.

"Within its first year 76,000 tickets were sold to more than 200 events and this success continues in the programme for 2010 and 2011 for community activities, centre development and ticket sales.

"Cinema attendance is now meeting and sometimes exceeding the national average."

The councillors also voted to promote Ann White to the post of deputy town clerk and she was commended for her exemplary service in supporting Mrs Larter. Mrs White, who joined the town council in 1994, has acted as deputy since May last year.

Cllr Andrew Eyre, chairman of the council's shadow trustees, said: "I would like to repeat my comments to the town annual meeting commending the success of Mrs Larter's leadership of both Sevenoaks Town Council and the Stag Community Arts Centre over the last year with outstanding results.

"I was pleased to be able to add my vote to those who confirmed Mrs Larter to continue her joint leadership of both the town council and the Stag and to provide stability, development and growth for the Stag."

Time for a laugh

THE next Stand-Up Comedy night at The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks will be held on Thursday, May 13.

The popular monthly events, organised by Outside the Box Comedy, will see resident host Maff Brown joined by Rufus Hound, Milton Jones, George Egg and Seann Walsh.

Tickets, costing £14 each, are available by calling 01732 450175.

See www.outsidetheboxcomedy.co.uk/sevenoaks for more details.

Drink driver gets 18-month ban

A MOTORIST has been disqualified from driving for 18 months after being caught behind the wheel while more than twice over the drink drive limit.

David Williams, 40, of Henwoods Mount, Tunbridge Wells, was stopped by the police in Foxhole Lane, Matfield, on March 25.

A roadside test found he had 86 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

He pleaded guilty to drink driving during a hearing at West Kent Magistrates Court in London Road, Sevenoaks, on April 6, and was banned for 18 months.

This ban will be reduced by 138 days if he completes an approved driving course, which costs £160. Williams was also fined £300 and ordered to pay £100 court costs.

Making a splash

A POPULAR pool party will return with a splash next month with DJ Ignition on the decks and fun activities lined up.

The Jump-In party for eight to 14-year-olds will take place at Edenbridge Leisure Centre in Stangrove Park on Saturday, May 8, from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets, costing £5, are available from the leisure centre. Places are limited, so booking is recommended on 01732 865665.

The centre's cafe will be open with special offers for parents and guardians who stay.

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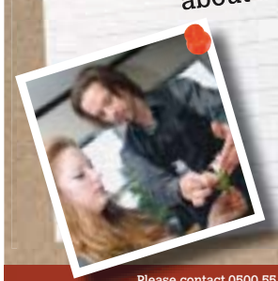

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GENERAL ELECTION We continue to meet the candidates

Looking to come out of the shadow

JENNA PUDELEK speaks to Greg Clark, incumbent of one of the safest Tory seats in the country, he's not prepared to take election success for granted

PRECISELY two weeks before the nation takes to the polls in what is shaping up to be one of the most keenly fought election contests in living memory, Greg Clark is calm and collected.

Sat in Tunbridge Wells' picture postcard Pantiles, and drenched in spring morning sunshine, if the Conservative MP is concerned about his party's position in the polls or how David Cameron will perform in the television debate that evening, it does not show.

As he sips a latte and talks about his love of election campaigns, only the extremely brave – or die-hard Nick Clegg fan – would back against him losing one of the safest Tory seats in the country.

Certainly, if David Cameron was to clinch a majority, Mr Clark's fame and influence will increase considerably. As the current shadow secretary of state for energy and climate change, the smart money is on the 42-year-old landing a cabinet role.

Mr Clark replaced fellow Tory Archie Norman in the 2005 election, winning with 49.6 per cent of the vote and has been quickly promoted to Cameron's top team.

But the Tory highflyer insists he is not taking his position for granted.

He said: "Talking to people on the doorstep, I hope they think I've done a good job, whatever their politics.

"They are electing a local representative, a local voice, and I hope people of all parties would think I've always worked hard for Tunbridge Wells and we've had some successes."

He spoke about his work locally, including the fight for the dualling of the A21 and the new public private finance hospital at Pembury.

"Things like the hospital, getting the A21 back onto the new roads programme were not all down to me, but I hope people think I played my part and that I've been vigorous in campaigning for things that benefit us all," he said. "I hope people will give me their support but I would not be so arrogant as to assume it."

Mr Clark does have a certain cross-party appeal, and as we're talking a Lib Dem councillor stops for a catch up about their respective election campaigns.

A copy of the Guardian sits on the table and he has obvious green credentials, from his position in the shadow cabinet, he is "passionate about tackling climate change", to his first private members' bill on 'garden grabbing' – the practice of home owners selling their gardens to housebuilders.

"One of the things I love most is not really the party politics it's representing and helping individual constituents with their problems," he said. "I like a fight and to take on authority when I think people have been treated unfairly. In five years I've been able to help lots of people.

"There are very difficult issues coming in and I always want to be there to be on people's sides and to battle for them.

"Some people are very articulate, but lots of people need someone on their side. Whatever else I do in politics in Tunbridge Wells, I would always like to be the person they would like to have on their side."

Since the first leaders TV debate last Thursday, the election campaign has been transformed, with the Tories fighting it out for first place in the polls with the Lib Dems.

Asked how Mr Cameron has been in the midst of all the action and uncertainty, Mr Clark said: "One of the great things about David is he is quite statesmanlike. I don't think he gets buffeted around – he keeps his cool and knows what he wants to do.

"There have always been ups and downs in the polls and he has never been blown off course."

He believes the Conservatives must now make a strong argument against a hung Parliament.

"I've always thought that with the economic situation as dire as it is we do need to have decisive action and I worry a Parliament that did not have a clear government emerging from it could lead to a period of uncertainty, which would worsen our economic difficulties.

"I think we need change and I think we need decisive action – no overall majority would not be good for us."

His work over the past five years has given him the benefit of being close to and knowledgeable on the issues that matter to people locally.

"We are getting a reputation for gridlock, people coming to visit friends and for business meetings," he said. "One of the local businesses told me when they have people coming to see them they give a standard instruction to allow an extra half an hour to get from Southborough to Tunbridge Wells. It's not good for our reputation, not good for the time we are wasting and not good for the pollution it causes. The A21 dualling is crucial."

Work to do

After a "real battle", work is due to start next year, and attention will focus on the need for a Colts Hill by-pass to improve the route from Maidstone Hospital to Pembury.

He said he will continue campaigning to improve the railway service from the town and improve bus links.

When the new state-of-the-art hospital at Pembury opens next year, he said it is vital that the community services matched its billing as 'the best in Britain' with 512 single, en suite rooms.

"I'm scandalised by young people and adolescents with mental health problems having to wait months for an initial appointment. It is unacceptable," he said.

"There is too little help for people with Alzheimer's and dementia and their carers. I know from my own family experience it is incredibly exhausting to be a full time carer for someone with Alzheimer's."

He renewed his commitment to protecting the area's green spaces and the Conservatives' to tackling climate change.

"In the last General Election the environment hardly featured at all. One of the main reasons the environment is centre stage today is that from the beginning David Cameron has said he would put it there," he said.

He added that the inclusion of protecting the environment in the manifesto showed how much the party had changed.

TW candidates

Greg Clark (Conservative)
Gary Heather (Labour)
David Hallas (Liberal Democrat)
Hazel Dawe (Green)
Victor Webb (UKIP)
Andrew McBride (BNP)

2005 Election results
Conservatives: 21,083 (49.6 per cent)
Lib Dem: 11,095 (49.6 per cent)
Labour: 8,736 (20.6 per cent)
UKIP: 1,568 (3.7 per cent)
Majority: 9,988 (23.5 per cent)

Business leaders' optimism

EVEN after peeling away some of the understandable hype, Kent 2020 Vision on Thursday inspired a positive outlook for the county's business sector.

The event at the Kent County Showground in Detling, near Maidstone, was billed as the largest business-to-business conference and exhibition in the south east.

And serial entrepreneur and Dragons' Den star James Caan gave meaning to his billing as keynote speaker by urging the audience to invest in their businesses now following retrenchment during the recession. His top tip for investment was simple - people.

Companies may have had to shed staff during the downturn, he said, but the smart ones will have kept their best people and are already in the market for good recruits, getting ready for the upturn and before staffing competition gets tougher.

He also urged them to look at exports, a more attractive position now that the pound had fallen in value. The show programme started bright and early with a breakfast meeting staged by Visit Kent, with guest speaker Nick Hewer – Lord Alan Sugar's famously dry and witty right-hand man on The Apprentices.

But while the overall mood was relentlessly upbeat with rare mentions of the recession, Kent County Council leader Paul Carter hammered home the point that the county's business needs to be freed to put the 'R' word behind it.

For more on Kent 2020 Vision, check out next week's Business Week, our new e-Bulletin and www.businessforkent.co.uk.

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GENERAL ELECTION

Shifting his focus from Washington to Tonbridge

JON COATES quizzes Daniel Griffiths, the journalist hoping to paint Tonbridge & Malling red on May 6

A FORMER BBC foreign correspondent is aiming to bring a different way of doing politics to Tonbridge and Malling.

Daniel Griffiths is the Labour candidate for the parliamentary seat that has been occupied by Conservative Sir John Stanley for the last 26 years.

And the 37-year-old journalist, who was a foreign correspondent in Washington and Beijing, thrust a broadsword at the long-serving MP in his first interview of the General Election campaign.

He said: "I want to offer a different way of doing politics. According to a recent media report many people in Tonbridge and Malling don't even recognise their MP. I will change that with surgeries around the constituency every week and public meetings so people can tell me their concerns.

"I want to be the sort of MP that people feel able to approach in the street. I am energetic and passionate about change, with a real desire to get things done."

However, he proved almost as elusive as Sir John Stanley – who rarely grants interviews and shuns the limelight – only finding time to answer questions over email.

In his responses he does not disclose where he lives, but says he is married to Sarah, whose parents live near Speldhurst, so "I know this part of Kent very well".

He says: "This is the first time I have stood for parliament and so far it has been an unforgettable experience.

"It has been great to speak to so many local people and hear about their hopes and fears.

"If I am elected I will devote most of my time to being a great local MP."

Mr Griffiths, who reported on the suffering caused by earthquakes and human rights abuses during his BBC posting in China, says the key local issues in his campaign are Pembury Hospital being built on time and budget, stopping a giant freight depot being built on greenbelt land in Borough Green, and the fight to restore fast train services from Malling to London.

He stressed he has a vital role in offering choice in standing against Sir John, who was re-elected in 2005 after taking 52.8 per cent of the vote and a 13,352 majority.

The Labour man said: "We live in a democracy and it is vital people have a choice."

When asked his view on the MPs expenses scandal, he said: "It is disgraceful that MPs were allowed to get away with it for so long. I am delighted the Labour Government has already introduced major reform, including the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, which will keep tight control over expenses."

Mr Griffiths embraced the television debates, saying: "I welcome this level of openness and transparency."

When asked if he was concerned by Labour leader Gordon Brown's performance in the first debate, he said: "Gordon is Gordon. I think he would be the first person to say public speaking is not his strength.

"However, he welcomed the opportunity to speak to the people of the country about the choice they face at this election – between a return to the bad old days under the Conservatives or securing the economic recovery, safeguarding our frontline services and building a fair future for all."

Tonbridge & Malling candidates

Sir John Stanley (Conservatives)
Daniel Griffiths (Labour)
Elizabeth Simpson (Liberal Democrat)
Steve Dawe (Green Party)
David Waller (UK Independence Party)

2005 Election results
Conservative: 24,537 (52.9%)
Labour: 11,005 (23.9%)
Lib Dem: 8,980 (19.5%)
UKIP: 1,721 (3.7%)
Majority: 13,352 (29%)

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We have some exciting times ahead of us at Holmewood. I would very much like the chance to share with you our plans for the future.

I look forward to this opportunity.

James Marjoribanks
Headmaster from September 2010

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"The response from our customers has been amazing", said Managing Director Jonathan Watts. "We knew that we would be busy, but the first day was beyond our wildest dreams. Our customers were delightful, showing a lot of patience as well as good humour. I think that all in all, they went home happy and many with a super bargain."

The business, founded in 1936, will soon embark on a renovation of their store, which will include a new frontage, new displays and a landscaped car park. To make space for the contractors in anticipation of the work, Lenleys are selling off many displays and surplus stock.

The sale is about to finish shortly and Jonathan Watts added, "I would encourage a visit as soon as possible to see quality furniture at fantastic prices, as the stock is going fast."

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GENERAL ELECTION We continue to meet the candidates

Capitalising on the swing

As Liberal Democrat fever sweeps the nation, JENNA PUDELEK meets the man looking to achieve what some dub Mission Impossible – to unseat the Tories in Sevenoaks

BOOSTED by the popularity of the party nationally, Alan Bullion, the Liberal Democrats' candidate for Sevenoaks, believes there is all to play for now locally too.

He knows he has a mountain to climb however. Trying to unseat the highest Tory majority in west Kent will take more than Nick Clegg's popularity surge.

Yet Mr Bullion is no stranger to such a challenge. At the last General Election he stood in Hammersmith and Fulham – a safe Tory seat – yet increased the Lib Dem vote by more than three per cent. Whether he can do the same here remains to be seen.

Mr Bullion is fighting his campaign on a number of key local issues, including improving rail services, public transport and the availability of affordable housing in the area.

We meet on Monday morning in an independent Italian café near Sevenoaks railway station. The sun is certainly shining on his party. After Nick Clegg's display in the first TV debate his party have risen from third to first in the latest opinion polls.

He is an interesting and experienced campaigner. He has become an expert on the Tamil Tigers after writing his PhD thesis on Sri Lanka and has proven environmental credentials – he works as an agricultural policy analyst specialising in renewable energy.

"If the polls are correct there is all to play for between now and May 6," he said. "The Lib Dems could have a highly deserved influence over the next government in Britain."

Before that first TV debate, when Nick Clegg emerged as perhaps the only popular politician in the UK, the other parties and local candidates would have been able to swipe this comment away as fanciful.

However, Mr Bullion is under no illusions and admits going up against the Conservatives' Michael Fallon, who won 51.8 per cent of the vote in 2005, is a daunting task.

He believes the key locally will be to encourage people out to vote: "The Lib Dems ran the council for a four-year period here with Labour. We know there is strong Lib Dem support here, it just needs to be captured in a positive way. Also people have taken it for granted as being Tory traditionally, but there was a Liberal MP in the 1920s

"People regard it as a safe Tory seat but it does not have to be that way. Many who are not necessarily Conservative feel if they could make a difference they would vote this time."

Where he does agree with Mr Fallon is on rejecting proposals for 1,500 new homes at Fort Halstead.

"It would drive more people onto the roads so I'm unconvinced of its green credentials. It is too intensive and too large a development."

He believes the answer to a lack of affordable housing, which is pricing young people out, is new properties on the edge of existing villages and towns, with improved public transport links to support them.

Public transport is a major campaign issue for him and he is calling for improved bus services in the towns and villages.

On trains, he is campaigning to protect Cannon Street services and to increase carriages so commuters do not have to stand all the way from Sevenoaks to London after paying out for inflation-busting fares.

The former Tunbridge Wells Boys Grammar School student, who still lives in the town, said he would give priority to west Kent children in the allocation of west Kent grammar school places.

"I want the new academy to become a centre of excellence so children have a choice of a decent education at the age of 11," he said.

"We are not in favour of opening any more grammar schools and I'm surprised the Tories said they would, because they had said they would not open any new ones.

"I believe in proper allocation of places to local people rather than opening a new school in Sevenoaks.

"Existing grammar schools provide an excellent service in the area and I want to boost other schools such as the academy so that all children have a good education. I was a council house boy who benefited from 11-plus education so it would be hypocritical of me to speak out against the current system.

"We have a different system in Kent and actually it has not worked well for everybody but we have a variety of schools."

Sevenoaks candidates

Michael Fallon (Conservative)
Gareth Siddorn (Labour)
Alan Bullion (Liberal Democrat)
Paul Golding (BNP)
Louise Uncles (English Democrat)

2005 Election results
Conservative: 22,437 (51.8 per cent)
Lib Dem: 9,467 (21.9 per cent)
Labour: 9,101 (21 per cent)
UKIP: 1,309 (3 per cent)
Other: 984
Majority: 12,970 (30 per cent)

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MANY WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE ABARTH 500 UPON ITS RELEASE LAST YEAR, WHICH IS WHY FIAT HAS SET UP A ONE-MAKE RACE SERIES. CURRENT CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER GARETH HOWELL TALKS THROUGH THE CAR AND THE SERIES

Circuit Breakers

The Zing Trofeo Abarth 500 series has kicked off with Kent driver Gareth Howell taking the chequered flag at the opening two races for the Lipscomb team of Aylesford. The stylish and great fun Abarth 500 has won many hearts over the last year, including that of the 29 year old championship leader.

You must be getting on well with the car?

" Yeah, we are doing well, though we actually had a bit of a pre-season problem. We had a young guy join the team fresh out of karts and he proceeded to roll our car, turning it into a sort of ball. We didn't have much time to test before the races, so to go on and reward the Lipscomb dealership with two wins is great."

Where did the Trofeo Abarth 500 series come from?

"Lipscomb have never been involved in motorsport before so when Fiat and Abarth approached all the dealers and said they wanted to create a manufacturer backed series, they really liked the idea. Lipscomb bought the car and approached me, being a Kent-based driver, and we took it from there."

How different is your race car from the road car?

"Ours has a race-tuned engine, plus the chassis has been worked on and the suspension stiffened. It's also got a lovely little gearbox... I really like it. There's a certain knack to finding the power band with the turbo, but I'm feeling very at home in it. Our 500s are a bit like mini touring cars - quite simple really - which makes for even better racing."

What are your chances of winning the series?

"Every driver has a chance because of how equal the cars are. The parts are controlled and monitored by Fiat, so it really just leaves it up to driver skill. Essentially it's about staying consistent but there are some great drivers out there. Some people are still finding their feet and they'll definitely get stronger, plus there are rumours of ex-British Touring Car drivers looking to get involved. If as many drivers come along as we're expecting, we could see a 20-car grid, so we're clearly turning a lot of heads."

How did you get into racing?

"I started karting in '89, when I was around eight years old; my dad pioneered indoor kart tracks so I was involved from a young age. I moved up through the British and then World Championships, moving onto Fiestas and going into touring cars in 2000."

What's on the cards for the future?

"We'll see what Fiat does. It'd be great to see them get back into British Touring Cars and I'd really like to race for them. A lot of manufacturers dropped out when times got tough and the rules meant that racing was very expensive, but next year the rules about engines are changing, making it cheaper to get involved."

Zing Trofeo Abarth 500s will be at Cadwell Park, Lincs, on May 22-23 supporting the British Superbikes. trofeoabarth500gb.com

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International festival to hit the right note

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A WORLD class clarinet player and the bestselling author of Captain Corelli's Mandolin are among the big names performing at the Royal Tunbridge Wells International Music Festival.

The event, which is in its seventh year, aims to bring internationally renowned stars from the worlds of classical music and literature to the town, as well as introduce children and young people to the arts.

Michael Waggett, chairman of the festival, said: "We've got some really great professional musicians who you do not often see in the town or this part of Kent.

"It's progressing and developing and we're still relatively young as a festival. This is a very prominent spa town so we thought why don't we have a festival like Bath and Cheltenham?

"Times are tough for everybody at the moment, but we have a festival that's still in good shape and it's something to lift the spirits after the election, the volcanic ash and the recession. I think there is something about the arts we need."

Concerts and readings are running through May after its official launch last Sunday at the Trinity Theatre.

Mr Waggett said highlights included Michael Collins, pictured, who will conduct the Grammy-award winning City of London Sinfonia orchestra at the theatre on May 16. The programme will include music by Mozart, Barber, Finzi and Copland, as well as virtuoso performances by Collins.

Promising young local musicians will also be given a clarinet masterclass by the world-famous clarinettist before his performance.

"It's not always easy to get into London," Mr Waggett said. "We have some very high calibre artists. It has been wonderful to get new top artists to perform something that is rather special and rather lovely."

Another highlight will see Louis de Bernières lead an evening of poetry and music on May 23. It will feature verses read by the Captain Corelli's Mandolin author and music by Alison Stephen on mandolin and Craig Ogden on guitar.

"It is so unusual and such an interesting idea," Mr Waggett said. "He loves poetry. There will be some from the Greek islands and from Spain and Latin America. We don't know exactly what they'll do, but it's a beautiful concept."

He said that the writer and broadcaster Sandy Gall, an expert analyst and commentator on Afghanistan, will be talking about the challenges facing the war-torn country on Friday, May 7, during a literary lunch at Hotel du Vin.

"In the last couple of weeks he has come back from Afghanistan and I think a lot of us would love an insider's view of what's happening there," he said.

On Sunday, May 9, international concert violinist, and local resident, Ken Aiso, will lead an ensemble of the Aiso Quartet & Friends in a delightful concert of chamber music at Trinity.

Most of the performances are set to take place at Trinity, Mr Waggett said: "It is a performance space that needs to be preserved.

"They are fighting back really well with the young management team and keeping itself going with grants and they have been very successful.

"We want to do our bit in the festival and this is a great musical performance space and the acoustics are great."

The festival runs until May 29.

• ***See www.tunbridgewellsfestival.co.uk, call 01342 851 168 or alternatively email info@tunbridgewellsfestival.co.uk for tickets and more information.***

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Celebrate your family at picnic

A CHARITY that supports people with learning disabilities is set to hold a big family picnic on May Bank Holiday Monday.

Pepenbury, which is based in Pembury, is holding the event at its site in Cornford Road to mark National Family Week taking place between May 31 and June 6.

Supporters have been asked to gather their friends and family and bring a picnic along to the charity's field where they can join in with other events.

These include food demonstrations and tasting, sunflower seed planting, wellie throwing, games, storytelling, live music and the chance to see small animals.

The event is being held in conjunction with the Food4Thought project, a spokesman for the charity said: "All we ask is that you join in our bid to host the biggest litter free picnic – so please bring a recyclable picnic if you can – our litter police will be out and the stocks will be ready for any offenders."

National Family Week coincides with the summer half term and there are more than 5,000 events and activities taking place across the country.

It focuses on families spending more quality time together and there will be more than 1,000 picnics held nationally.

A recent poll found that the average family spends just 45 minutes a day together.

For more details on the Family Week Picnic, to see what else is happening in your area and around the UK, to access special offers and enter great competitions, visit www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk.

KOS gets award recognition

KOS Media's digital services have been praised the media industry's 'Oscars', the 2010 Newspaper Awards.

The company – which publishes this newspaper - was nominated in two categories; for 'new media initiatives' in the Fujifilm Grand Prix award and the 'best use of new media award' for Yourkenttv – our online video site.

In addition to its websites providing news, business and sports coverage, KOS Media also runs an internet TV service and provides a free Apple iPhone app available by following the link on our site at kentnews.co.uk.

KOS Media managing director Paul Stannard said: "To be shortlisted with such household names as The Guardian, Daily Telegraph and Financial Times is a great honour. These national media companies have and huge staff resources, but this recognition for KOS Media just goes to show what can be achieved with vision, a motivated staff, and a commitment to serve Kent."

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We have a fabulous Gazebo Package for six people to give away for the night of Friday, June 18, to see the Magic of Motown and the Chicago Blues Brothers. The package includes fast track entry to the concert, Gold Circle tickets, a dedicated waterproof gazebo with lighting, clothed table and floral arrangement and chairs. Bring your own picnic.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Magic of Motown Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is May 10, 2010.

Question: Complete the Motown classic by Marvin Gaye: I Heard it Through the...

And don't worry if you don't win. Tickets can be booked by calling 0871 230 3446 or see www.kew.org/wakehurstmusicfestival.

Other festival highlights include Katherine Jenkins on Thursday, June 17, and the Bootleg Beatles and The Fabbagirls ABBA tribute band on Saturday, June 19.

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

The London Laser Nail Clinic are proud to support the Hookers and Hackers Charity Golf day 2010

The London Laser Nail Clinic are proud to be sponsoring the Hookers and Hackers Charity golf day, this year the chosen charity is Hospice in the Weald they provide specialist palliative care advice and clinical support for people with life limiting illness, their family and the bereaved. Established since 1980, Hospice In The Weald comprises a 17 bed In-Patient Unit and a Day Therapy Centre offering a range of treatments, complementary therapies and clinics.

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Gig to fund African charity trip

Musical students' concert to help pay for flight to Kenya to renovate school

FOUR college students have organised a music event next month to help fund charity work they want to undertake in Africa, ***writes Jon Coates.***

Helen Garrod, Paul Rippendal, Emma Wood, and Ben Killick, all 22, are planning to spend two weeks in a remote village in Kenya's Rift Valley.

During this time they will help renovate a school and will teach a range of classes including English and maths.

They will be the guests of families in the village and experience life in their homes without electricity or their normal luxuries.

The four students, who all attend West Kent College in Tonbridge, plan to fly out to the Kenya capital Nairobi on July 3, from where they will be taken to a village near Lake Naivasha.

But to fund the trip, organised through the Mad Foundation, they need to raise another £1,000 to cover their flights.

Miss Garrod, from Biggin Hill, Mr Rippendal, from Cranbrook, and Mr Killick, from Five Oak Green, are all music students at the college campus in Brook Street.

They have used their contacts to line up a Kenya Fund Gig being staged at the Royal Victoria Hall in Tunbridge Wells on May 15.

The live music will be provided by Billy Jupp & the Beatniks, who Mr Rippendal plays guitar for, Goldie Reed, which is Miss Garrod's stage name, David Migden & the Dirty Words, who are teachers at the college and recently played at London's renowned Jazz Café, Sarah Tonin, who supported the Cast Off Kinks at the Assembly Halls in Tunbridge Wells last month, and Kensingtons, a Brighton band with a guitarist who went to the college.

Tickets, costing £5 each, will be available on the door or in advance by emailing helengarrod@hotmail.co.uk.

SUPPORT ACT: David Migden and the Dirty Words

There will be a bar with all profits going to the charity mission.

Miss Garrod, who is in the first year of a popular music degree, said: "We would love 200 people to attend and if we can get 300 it would be fantastic.

"After we have paid for our flights if there is any money leftover we will use it to buy pens and paper, and toiletries, for the village.

She added: "I am looking forward to it. Hopefully we can give a lot to the village, but I am sure we will take just as much out of the experience.

"Groups of up to 15 people go out through the charity foundation. To live in a rural village in their homes will be very rewarding."

The four students, which also includes Miss Wood, from Etchingham, who has just completed a one-year child-care course at the college and is thinking about taking a degree course in the vocation, have already raised enough money to pay for their food and accommodation in the village.

They say they now just need help with the final push to fund their flights.

Miss Garrod said: "This is something I have always wanted to do and hope people will support us by attending the gig."

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JULIE MADDOCKS

The plane in Spain stays put, mainly

WE SHOULD have been celebrating my god-daughter's birthday this weekend, but sadly she's not here.

As part of her present, her boyfriend had taken her to Spain on holiday with friends and – as you've probably already guessed – they're still there.

What began as an exciting adventure in Alicante has become a nightmare for Olivia and her three fellow holidaymakers.

Along with hundreds of thousands other British travellers, the quartet are struggling to return to England. Their scheduled flight was on Thursday, April 15, the day all UK flights were halted and airports shut as a cloud of volcanic ash slowly made its way across Europe.

Friends and family immediately started to put plans in place to get Livvy and her friends back home.

Why don't they hire a car? Go up through Spain, head up France to Calais, jump on a ferry and they'd be back in Dover before you know it.

Great idea. But after several phone calls it became clear this wasn't an option.

The best price for the car hire alone was £1,700. Add on the price of fuel and tolls and it became far too expensive. What about a train or coach then? The average quote started at £350 per person and the availability was not good. The first day they could travel was April 23 – not much better than their promised new scheduled flight date of the 25th, which would be at no extra cost.

GROUNDED: The volcanic eruption in Iceland has caused havoc across Europe

What has hampered their progress, without doubt, is continued indecisiveness. It has cost them money, time and availability.

They were one of the first to be affected by the volcano on the initial day of disruption, but if they'd realised the extent of the problem and chosen to make their move then, they would have beaten the rush and been home by now.

But hindsight is a wonderful thing. And I can't say I blame them when they're not sure what their insurance will cover, what their rights are, or whether there is any chance of getting money back from the airlines.

My sympathies are with all travellers affected by the Icelandic volcano.

The disruption seemed to change by the minute and was became further confused as the decision as to when airports would reopen was pushed back and back, casting doubt on when planes would be able to fly again. After weighing everything up, like many others, Olivia and her friends decided to sit tight, wait and keep their fingers crossed that they would be able to get home on their new scheduled date.

Still, the good news is her birthday party plans are still in place and as the pinot grigio has been chilling for the past week, it would be foolish not to go ahead. And although she won't be there, I've got a feeling we'll be in her thoughts.

Sighing in relief knowing she'll be missing auntie Julie and her mum's karaoke rendition of the Drifters' Saturday Night at the Movies … Cheers, Livvy – Happy Birthday!

Julie reports from around the county for KOS Media's broadband TV station www.yourkenttv.co.uk Contact her on julie.maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk

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Just weeks before blasting off on his

Travel the

PIERS Sellers is one of the few. Because he has seen our planet in a way just a handful of others ever have. He's seen it from the stars.

And as Nasa's space shuttle fleet nears retirement, the astronaut is preparing to make history in one of its final missions to the International Space Station. From there he can turn and look back on our world, glowing blue and white in the cosmos.

Now, just weeks before he blasts back off into space, the former Cranbrook school boy, who was born in Crowborough, has spoken about his fascinating career, which has seen

THE MISSION

STS-132

Launch Target May 14 at 2.28pm EDT

Shuttle Atlantis

Duration 12 days

Crew Commander Ken Ham; pilot Tony Antonelli; mission specialists Stephen Bowen, Michael Good, Garrett Reisman and Piers Sellers

Mission Deliver integrated cargo carrier and Russian-built mini-research module to the International Space Station.

Details The second in a series of new pressurised components for Russia, a mini-research module, will be permanently attached to the bottom port of the Zarya module. The Russian module will also carry US pressurised cargo. Three spacewalks are planned to stage spare components outside the station, including six spare batteries, a boom assembly for the Ku-band antenna and spares for the Canadian Dextre robotic arm extension. A radiator, airlock and European robotic arm for the Russian Multi-purpose Laboratory Module are also payloads on the flight. This will be the 34th shuttle mission to the station.

What's next

AS Mr Sellers, pictured, and the rest of the crew make their final preparations for their mission to the ISS where six people currently live, the debate over the future of space exploration is raging in US.

The $108billion (more than £69bn) Constellation programme, which aimed to get astronauts to the Moon by 2020 and Mars by 2030, has been cancelled.

In a speech at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, President Barack Obama answered his critics, which include Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon, by saying "Nobody is more committed to manned spaceflight, to human exploration of space than me. But we have got to do it in a smart way, we can't just keep doing the same old things."

He said America would eventually put astronauts on Mars and outlined a plan to push boundaries beginning with a manned mission to land on an asteroid.

next mission, Piers Sellers tells JENNA PUDELEK about his experiences in space

world in 100 minutes

him clock up more than 559 hours in space – including six daring spacewalks.

From hundreds of miles up, Mr Sellers says peering down onto the world from beyond our atmosphere has reinforced how precious the "beautiful little planet" is and how we must protect it from man-made climate change.

Mission specialist Mr Sellers, 55, is part of a six-strong shuttle crew looking to launch on May 14.

The shuttle Atlantis on which he will travel plans to deliver an integrated cargo carrier and a Russian-built mini research module to the International Space Station (ISS) – the world's largest orbiting laboratory.

But it will be a voyage tinged with sadness not just for Mr Sellers, but for everyone connected with the American space programme. Because at the end of the year the shuttles will be going to three museums and the programme will close after 134 launches since its conception in 1982.

"It is a weird time," Mr Sellers told this paper, taking a break from the months of preparation he has to undergo in Houston, Texas. "People are stretching their legs and wondering who is going to decide when and what next.

"I think the whole of space exploration has seen a transition from a political battle of wills between the US and the Soviet Union to an international adventure.

"Now countries share – there are 17 participating in the ISS. It is a tremendous thing, an adventure, and a force for good.

"The US has always been a leader and I would not like to see that given up."

Mr Sellers, who has spoken about how Yuri Gagarin's first adventure into space sparked his desire to become an astronaut, did a Bachelor of Science degree in ecological science at the University of Edinburgh, before a PhD in biometeorology at Leeds University.

He began his career at Nasa as a meteorologist, studying climate change at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. He became a US citizen in 1991 and a Nasa astronaut candidate in 1996.

The father-of-two is now based in the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

But despite all the hours spent in space, he admits the sense of awe rarely leaves him – a feeling made all the more remarkable having been among an even more select group of astronauts to have taken part in a space walk – where he exits the shuttle and literally floats in space.

"It's great. You're floating around and the Earth appears gigantic as you're flying around.

"You travel around the whole world in a hundred minutes. Outside for six or seven minutes you see three or four sun rises.

"It's quite beautiful, you see the Amazon and then the Sahara a few minutes later. Minutes apart you see everything – rivers, mountains and lakes."

He said that he had always known the importance of protecting our planet, but his travels into space have heightened his fondness for Earth.

Beautiful

"It's a huge privilege," he said. "I wish every time that I could take everyone with me so they could see it. I'd love more people to see it, it's so beautiful.

"It makes you a lot fonder of home. We have a beautiful little planet with a nice little sun moving across the sky. When you are flying around there it is just so beautiful."

For what is set to be Atlantis' final mission in May, Mr Sellers said he would be giving other crew members the chance to space walk while he works the robot from inside the shuttle.

He said that he tries to get back to Kent every couple of years and has spoken at Cranbrook School speech days in the hope of inspiring the next generation of intrepid space explorers.

"It is tough when you are a kid to know what an engineer or scientist does day to day and what is exciting about it," he said.

"Trying to get it across while they are slogging through GCSEs is tough, it's hard work doing science and maths, but the rewards are there and it is incredibly exciting.

"I was doing really interesting things before I became an astronaut. You can have a great life in science."

It would, perhaps, be hard to think of someone better to inject a real enthusiasm for science while combining the thrills of genuine adventure.

Mr Sellers adds: "Imagine hanging out of the space craft, one-handed, just hanging, watching the world go by underneath you.

"First you can see the white sun and then the black sky getting higher and higher. It's quite something."

CHRIS BRITCHER

Celebrity fans are run of the mill

IF anyone had said that a little over a week after Heather Mills was unveiled as the celebrity supporter of the Liberal Democrats the party would be leading some opinion polls, the chances are they would have been laughed out of town.

Yet while the former Mrs McCartney's endorsement of Nick Clegg had precisely nothing to do with his remarkable change in fortunes – unless, of course, I've hideously underestimated her fanbase and general popularity – it did herald a handful of celebrities hoping their popularity would carry some favour with swaying voters.

We had comic Eddie Izzard turning out for Labour. Actor Michael Caine for the Tories. Even Take That's Gary Barlow was spotted on the campaign trail alongside David Cameron.

Of course, the argument is that if your vote is swayed merely by your hero's political affiliations, then we are all doomed. Surely we all have a little more commonsense – a little more thought of our own – than to opt to support a political ideology purely on the grounds we liked so-and-so's last single, or they made us split our sides laughing once?

But for years now, every election has seen this strange alliance between celebrities and politics. Parties remain convinced that selecting the right famous face can be as powerful as selecting the right policy.

In fact once upon a time it was part of the pre-election build-up that the big guns would unveil the celebrities they hoped would pull them in a few cheap votes.

Indeed, not that long ago, it was pretty much essential that if you were famous you aligned yourself with one of the main parties.

But then that was back in the day when each party ploughed a very distinct furrow and there was less of this arm-wrestling for the middle ground we see today.

John Cleese was the big Lib Dem name… er… in fact, the only Lib Dem celeb I can remember prior to Ms Mills.

The Tories would wheel out a variety of big names and the Labour Party were helped or, indeed hindered, depending on your musical taste, by Red Wedge – the musical movement of the 80s which featured the likes of Paul Weller and Billy Bragg.

It is something of a double-edged sword, however. If you, as the voter, are vehemently opposed to a particular political party, the foolish celebrity backing it can end up vilified forever more.

After all, the chances are a few votes were cast for Tony Blair's Labour Party in 1997 purely because Phil Collins vowed to leave the UK if the Conservatives were swept from power. Was there ever a more persuasive vote winner?

Today, all stars appear to be far more careful in declaring their colours.

Oasis meeting Tony Blair at Number 10 all those years ago did nothing for their street cred, after all and, if truth be told, Blair's desire to capitalise on the whole Brit Pop thing of the mid-90s pretty much killed it stone dead. Music, after all, should be rebelling against the system, not being invited in for a cup of tea.

And given the general disengagement with national politics – give or take the renewed surge after the TV debates – celebrities are wise to steer clear of trying to persuade us to vote for their party of choice.

They are about as popular as those of icons who are enamoured to a particular religion and try and push it on to their fanbase.

Not to mention the fact the Heather Mills example would tend to suggest we simply don't take any notice of who the stars are going to vote for anymore anyway.

Picture: REX

ENDORSED: Even though Heather Mills has announced herself to be a supporter, the Lib Dems are leading some opinion polls

Chris Britcher is editor of this newspaper. Contact him with your news and views by emailing him direct: chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

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Failure of judgement

Did the Conservative associations of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells realise the risks of endorsing their candidates for the General Election?

Those candidates, former Members of Parliament, quietly acquiesced in the expenses scandal and were guilty in varying degrees of fleecing us taxpayers.

Their cover was blown by the press but otherwise they would have sailed merrily along claiming every penny possible.

They were not aware of wrong doing and 'death-bed' confessions of 'I did not know' or 'was not told', or 'was not in favour' adds to their guilt and demonstrates either a gullibility or a mischievousness which surely shows them unfit for office.

They live 30 miles from the centre of their work, Westminster, in commuter belt country. All my working life I have paid my own fares, had lunch vouchers, caught the train home when the day's work was done – sometimes the last one.

I have worked at times on the train in a second class compartment and even over-run Tonbridge and been forced to get a late night taxi home from Ashford – all out of my own pocket.

I could not afford a second home 40 minutes up the line to furnish, equip and fill the fridge – and we can ill afford to bear the cost for others who have done so.

But one does not need to experience circumstances such as mine to recognise candidates who have failed in their duty. Electors will make their judgement.

Anthony Snitter, Hildenborough

We are a valid option

I think the views of J Goddard and V Harrow (Letters, April 18) may have been correct a few years ago, but no more.

Don't believe propaganda from the three old failing parties because if you look at recent elections you will see many cases of UKIP taking second place, and often with a good margin over Labour and the Lib Dems.

Recently at the by-election in Vigo and last summer at the county elections in Malling Rural East, UKIP came second; at the EU elections UKIP came second, and well ahead of the third place party, at EU regional level, at Kent County level and at Tonbridge and Malling borough level.

Results like these show how many people have already realised the status quo has been broken, in spite of the press suppressing the information by deliberately referring to the "other" party, and as time passes more are seeing that we really can make the dramatic changes to British politics that we need.

"Call me Dave" keeps saying he wants change, so do I, so let's give him a non-Tory west Kent. Please don't vote Tory out of fear, vote UKIP out of conviction.

David Waller, UKIP Parliamentary Candidate, Tonbridge and Malling

Are things really okay?

Hold the front page; estate agent says everything is rosy in housing market despite the UK being in the greatest recession since the Great Depression.

OPTIMISM IS BACK IN FASHION

Probably worth getting your advice on whether housing is a good investment from an economist or financial advisor, rather than someone who leaves school with no qualifications and specialises in parallel-parking.

J E Marshall, Sevenoaks

And for the rest of us?

It's all very well house prices returning to high levels for the top properties, but the biggest homes were always going to be okay.

It was for the rest of us, with regular size homes where the focus should really be.

G Hunter, Tonbridge

Cameron's cruel change

When every vote counts it is astonishing that David Cameron flaunts his contempt for animal welfare. The Tory Election Manifesto includes the following: "The Hunting Act has proved unworkable. A Conservative government will give Parliament the opportunity to repeal the Hunting Act on a free vote, with a government bill in government time."

This will bring back fox hunting, hare hunting and hare coursing, stag hunting, some form of summer riverside hunting and all the havoc associated with these cruel pastimes. Some hunters have too easily flouted the Hunting Act but surely that is reason to close the loopholes and enforce the Act, not to repeal it?

This plan for a return to bloodsports is not in the environment or animal welfare sections of the manifesto; instead it is under civil liberties. So it is the hunters self-claimed "right to be cruel", in opposition to the wishes of the vast majority, that David Cameron appears to support.

As hunting can thrive without the pursuit of live quarry why return to the cruel old days? Seeking change is fine but change for the better – not a return to past savagery.

M J Huskisson, by email

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Has a political party called at your home since the election was called?

- **Yes** – 9 per cent
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Letters continue on page 30

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BIRTHS

LANCEFIELD
Charles and Kate are pleased to announce the birth of Emily Kate Lancefield on 6th April 2010 at The Buckland Hospital, Dover, weighing 8lb 13oz .

LEE
Eliza Grace Lee was born 9th April 2010, to Patrick and Jessica Lee of Canterbury and sister to Ruby.

REEVES
Mollie born on the 3rd April 2010, weighing 8lb 2oz. Daughter to Rob and Emma of Hythe. Sister to Charlie.

MATTHEWS
Siobhan and Stuart are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Lily Rachel May Matthews on 9th April 2010, weighing 9lb 10oz. Sister to Kirsty, Lauren, Daniel and Thomas.

SCHIPPERS
Julie and Jeroen Schippers are delighted to announce the birth of their son Lucas Christopher Bernardus on the 7th April 2010.

HUMPHREYS
Tulisa Patricia born on 2nd April 2010, weighing 6lb 0oz. Daughter to James and Anna in Maidstone.

WILLOWS
Amy and Alan of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Reggie Beau Willows, born on 10th April 2010 at QEQM Hospital.

FOX-PERCY
Osten William born weighing 8lb 7oz on 9th April 2010 to very proud parents.

HORGAN
Liam and Sally Horgan celebrate the birth of their daughter Sienna Mae Olivia Horgan on 13th April 2010.

ROLANDSEN
Sarah-Jane and Bjorn of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Harry James Bjorn Rolandsen, born on 6th April 2010 at QEQM Hospital. Brother to Alfie-Lee and Frankie-Jane.

DEATHS

IVES
June Irene, 17th June 1929 to 10th April 2010. June, formerly of Borough Green, passed away on Saturday 10th April 2010 to be reunited with her husband Bren. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Rest In Peace. Funeral has already taken place.

WELLER
Jennifer Weller passed away peacefully on the morning of Tuesday 13th April 2010. Service to be held at St Thomas Moore Church West Malling at 11am on Monday 26th April. Flowers welcomed or donations to the Dogs Trust.

GALE
Bob Gale of Folkestone passed away on the 14th April 2010. Enquiries to Hambrook and Johns, Folkestone.

WESTBROOK
John Westbrook died suddenly on 10th April 2010, will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Letters continued from page 29

A few universal truths

Inspired by Doug Cheverst's recent letter, I am glad to find there are other people capable of using perspective in their assessments.

Anyone who watched Professor Brian Cox's recent series on this planet and the universe would realise how preposterous it is to think that man and his motor car can outwit the processing of the solar system.

The power that controls it all is almost beyond comprehension. These are the programmes that should be compulsory in schools, not Al Gore's propaganda.

The timely saga of the Iceland volcano endorses my views on the subject.

David R Hedges, Chatham

Sorry, you don't exist

Train company Southeastern trumpets the ease of season ticket renewals over the internet, but fails to admit the service doesn't work.

A friend tried to renew by this method, having held an annual season ticket for years, only to be told by the Cannon Street office that he couldn't renew as the office had no record of him being at his address.

Yet this information would have been on record at the old season ticket office (then recently closed) at Tonbridge, so staff would have been able to see this on records which had been transferred to Cannon Street.

What had clearly happened was that they had been looking at the edited, rather than the full, version of the Register of Electors, despite the fact that companies are entitled to consult the full version for the purpose of checking customers' creditworthiness.

A complaint was subsequently made to Southeastern's management, who refused to take it seriously. This is unsatisfactory and needs to be brought to the attention of the public, as there must be many other victims.

Daniel Bates, Sevenoaks

Electing to ignore issue

The exceptional risks of climate change are being airbrushed out of this General Election by most parties.

The Green Party believes cuts in UK greenhouse gas emissions of 10 per cent a year will be needed for many years. Recent research shows the effects of aviation and shipping pollution to be considerably worse than previous expectations, and airport expansion in Kent should be halted due to their certain impacts on climate.

With Manston and Lydd both showing recent major financial losses, this provides another reason to accept Kent Green Party's argument that these sites should be used as all-weather leisure centres.

Even more startling is research showing that up to 39,000 people in the European Union are dying prematurely each year as a result of pollution from shipping.

Since all of Kent's ports, but particularly Dover, are trying to expand, this pollution now becomes critically important. The longer we wait to act, the higher the costs will be.

The scientific and political consensus about the need to deal with human-induced climate change has never been wider than today.

Kent and Medway are significantly exposed to the risk of wetter winters and hotter summers.

Kent's coastline and estuaries are vulnerable to significant changes unless cuts of about 90 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions are achieved by 2050. But Kent County Council's new draft Local Transport Plan does not even propose measures to cut traffic year on year in order to help achieve this target.

Kent's older growth forests play a part in storing carbon dioxide. However, if stressed by summer droughts, we could see a major loss of trees during the next few decades.

Dr Geoff Meaden, Kent Green Party

Our European fault line

Surely Tory leader David Cameron understands that a huge number of people in this country do not want to be in the EU.

Gordon Brown and Nick Clegg will drag us further and further into Europe when most people can see no advantage in being there, but many disadvantages

Mr Cameron should remember France and Germany always wanted to run this country and are doing so without firing a shot. What does he think the world wars were about?

He could wipe the smiles from his opponents' faces by promising a referendum on EU membership in the first Parliament and the country would be behind him.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

No time for cowardice

All three main party leaders are guilty of cowardice, because the overriding issue, barely mentioned by any of them and which will probably decide the outcome of the General Election, is Europe.

I remind everyone of a pamphlet called Britain's New Deal in Europe, circulated (late in 1973 or January, 1974) by Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister.

I quote: "No important new policy can be reached in Brussels or anywhere else without the consent of the British Minister answerable to a British Government and British Parliament." So much for Labour promises.

Neither Margaret Thatcher nor Tony Blair were any better. David Cameron reneged on a promise to hold a referendum on the EU. So much for Conservative promises.

The major issues may be immigration, climate change, the economy, health, crime and punishment, banking, education, defence, etc, but they are all subordinate if Britons are not in direct control of key decisions.

All parties have aided and abetted a steady transfer of power to Brussels. And this erosion continues.

We need a full debate on Britain's future in Europe, followed by a referendum. I challenge our leaders to get their heads out of the sand.

Ian R Elliott, Whitstable

You've a choice of five

If senior Tory George Osborne wants to help small business, then the first thing the Conservatives need to do is take this country out of the EU.

The think tank Open Europe says implementing EU regulations has cost British businesses £124 billion since 1998.

Anyone incensed by Brussels costing us that amount and for taking £45 million every day from British taxpayers when people here are suffering and dying needlessly because the NHS cannot afford to treat them properly, should vote for one of the five political parties that say we should leave the EU.

They are: UKIP, Socialist Labour Party (founded by Arthur Scargill who says membership of the EU has ruined Britain), the BNP, English Democrats and No2EU.

Voting Labour, Tory or Lib Dem will only give us more of the same old treachery, because they are commited to handing Britain over to the EU.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

Weather is not climate

In reply to Doug Cheverst on climate issues, I would point out that the winter of 1911-12 that caught out the Titanic, iceberg-wise, was a weather event and nothing to do with population or industrialisation.

The weather is what happens over a few years or decades within an overall climate, which happens, usually, over thousands or millions of years.

The same can be said of the 1953 floods of Eastern England which were just an unusual combination of events.

Since then though, as it can take some 30 years or more for CO2 levels to reach the upper atmosphere and for the climate to react to such, it has clearly been shown that overall global temperatures have risen regularly since the mid 20th century.

The latest review, which again points to man-made influences only and updates the 2007 InterGov Panel report, was published in the Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews of Climate Change, in March, with Dr Peter Stott saying: "The fingerprint of human influence is in many aspects of observed climate change."

The sun's activity is also not at fault for recent changes as published in the US magazine Science in March, 2009, and re-iterated in the above.

As for the suggestion of scientists' claims for more funding, I quote Prof Tim Palmer, who recently said: "People who believe in a global conspiracy don't understand the process of science or its practitioners."

Meanwhile, the current eruption of the Eyafjallajokull volcano in Iceland will only affect things for a short time. It would need something monumental, like the Toba eruption 74,000 years ago, to affect things long-term globally.

Maybe Mother Nature is backing climate scientists, who point out that aviation emissions are the fastest growing risk from CO2 to worsening global warming. I suggest people vote only for the Green Party or Lib Dems at the General Election. Whoever gets in, we must all press strongly for an end to ID cards, Trident and all the money – over £100 billion – switched to the Green New Deal, without support for new nuclear stations, so as to help change our overall social, economic and environment circumstances for the better.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Surviving disasters

A world expert on how people behave in disasters is appealing for help from people who have been evacuated from their homes or public buildings during floods or serious fires in the past 10 years.

Professor Ed Galea, from the University of Greenwich, uses his insights from talking to people who have survived disasters to improve building designs and evacuation procedures around the world.

His work with thousands of survivors, including people who escaped from the World Trade Center on 9/11, plane crashes and the Paddington rail disaster, is already being used by architects, engineers and emergency services internationally.

If you were evacuated from a private or public building as a result of flooding or a serious fire and would like to find out more, go to http://fseg.gre.ac.uk/fire/besecu.html; email L.hulse@gre.ac.uk; or call Dr Lynn Hulse on 0208 331 8706.

Fire Safety Engineering Group, University of Greenwich

Help stop the suffering

Over the last 14 months, Animal Aid has secretly filmed inside seven British slaughterhouses. Far from meeting a quick, humane death, our film shows animals suffering torment as they are kicked, punched, goaded and dragged into the stun room.

Once inside, pigs and sheep run in terrified circles, desperate to escape. Many are inadequately stunned and may be still conscious.

In most of the slaughterhouses, the vets – who are charged with ensuring that animal welfare laws are adhered to – are nowhere to be seen.

Animal Aid is calling for CCTV to be installed in all UK slaughterhouses. If workers know that they are being filmed, they are more likely to work humanely and legally. And for those who don't comply with the law, the film will provide evidence for their prosecution. To support our campaign, contact Animal Aid at www.stopthebrutality.com or call 01732 364546.

Kate Fowler, Animal Aid, Tonbridge

Wonga Walk invitation

I am writing to ask your readers to support people with epilepsy by getting involved in Epilepsy Action's Wonga Walks.

Wonga Walks are taking place across the country to mark Epilepsy Action's 60th anniversary this year. Epilepsy Action is hosting its very own Wonga Conga on Sunday, June 13 (the beginning of National Epilepsy Week, June 13-19) – at Derwentwater in the Lake District. The week aims to raise awareness of epilepsy and raise funds to help support the 456,000 people living with epilepsy in the UK.

We hope the walks will clock up a total distance of 9,240 miles – equivalent to walking to Timbuktu and back. To achieve this target we need 60 groups of 25 people, each walking a distance of six miles (but any distance you can do will take us closer to our goal). That's just one mile for every decade of Epilepsy Action's work. We're encouraging everyone to get involved and organise or take part in a Wonga Walk. All funds raised from the walks will help people affected by epilepsy, a condition that is often overlooked and misunderstood. To find out how to take part in a Wonga Walk or for information about organising your own event, visit www.epilepsy.org.uk/wongawalks. You can also call the fund-raising team on 0113 210 8800.

Michael White, Epilepsy Action

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Saddle up and join the stampede to the new Smith & Western, Bar, Grill, Diner and Hotel in Tunbridge Wells. Located in Linden Park Road and what was formally the West Station this restaurant brings a little piece of the good ole Wild West to town!

As you walk through the doors the authentic wild west decor, with walls adorned with memorabilia from life on the ranch, you will quite literally feel like you have stepped back in time! With Totem poles and a jail area you had better make sure you don't step out of line for fear that the Sheriff will lock you up.

Extensive Menu's

The kids love the 'Buckaroo Menu' which includes a main meal, drink and dessert all for £6.50 and a puzzle book keeps them tied up for ages. There is an extensive list of blended cocktails, wines and beers to accompany the tastiest of foods in the restaurant. Why not start with an impressively generous plate of nachos, topped with sour cream, chilli, guacamole smothered with melted cheese. You could follow this with BBQ ribs, steaks, homemade burgers or fajitas to mention just a few of the classic American Dishes.

At lunchtime there is even a Boot Scootin Lunch menu for those of you who are looking for a lighter and speedier option, not forgetting the Hearty Cowboy Breakfast being served from 9am every day.

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Accommodation

The first floor has been transformed into a hotel, which offers 9 ranch rooms all named after South American tribes like Sioux, Cree or Arapaho to name a few. With bedside lights in the shape of antlers and cowboy boots, the bedrooms are finished to a very high standard. All with modern facilities such as flat screen TVs, coffee machines and Wi-Fi.

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Sitting pretty after 15 years in the hot seat

NORTH West Kent College principal Malcolm Bell has retired after 15 years in charge.

Mr Bell said farewell at a leaving ceremony last week, when he was presented with gifts including stylish deckchairs made by woodwork students.

Former Dartford MP Howard Stoate – who also retired last week – led the tributes, saying he has always been impressed by Mr Bell's commitment to the college.

He added: "It has been transformed during his time as principal and much of the credit for that must go to him."

PARTING GIFT: Malcolm Bell with chairs

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Support is there for all workers

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DISABLED people and those with mental health issues have been assured they are still entitled to the same employment opportunities as everyone else.

The free Kent Supported Employment (KSE) programme – which forms part of Kent County Council's adult social services division – provides help and advice in creating CVs, filling in application forms and preparing clients for job interviews.

Every person who signs up to the scheme has the support of an employment adviser, who stays in touch even after employment has been found.

Kent Supported Employment also helps people who are already in work, but who may be experiencing problems due to their disability. Cabinet member for adult social services Cllr Graham Gibbens said: "Having a disability or mental health problem should not stop people getting work.

"Offering people the right support and getting alongside them as they develop their skills is an important part of how we can help people keep their independence and control of their lives.

"Building relationships with employers is also incredibly important. Any business can find it useful to learn more about employing disabled people and for many of those who already do have disabled people in their workforce, there is a lot of help available."

Cllr Gibbens pointed to the example of a Whitstable woman who – despite suffering from auditory memory problems – was able to set up her own beauty salon in the town.

Knowledge

Despite working hard to gain qualifications after leaving school, the entrepreneur still lacked the knowledge to start a business and was put in touch with KSE.

Adviser Hasan Hijazi helped her write a business plan and with support from Business Link and the Prince's Trust, she was able to turn her dream into reality.

Mr Hasan said: "KSE can support the individual to move forward from where they are as a person to recognise their true potential."

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/kse for further information.

Record week of distinction

STUDENTS taking National Diplomas with Pitman Training celebrated a record week in which 18 received distinctions for their work.

With nine offices across the county, the firm offers training in subjects including human resources, Microsoft Office, book-keeping and legal secretary work. Director David Amos said: "Each of these students has shown that at any age or from any background, you can make a career change with the right training and support."

KOS Media readers can call 0800 064 6500 for a free consultation.

UKC's Jarman shortlisted

THE University of Kent at Canterbury's new School of Arts building has been shortlisted for a prestigious prize.

Costing £6.25 million to build, the Jarman Building is up for a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) award for its impressive range of film studios, editing suites, galleries and classrooms.

Other Kent buildings nominated include the Joiners Shop at the Historic Dockyard Chatham, and the visitor admissions building at Dover Castle. The winner will be announced on October 9.

LIFE IS SUITE: Jarman Building at Kent University

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Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019

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Community Drug Worker

£21,519 - £27,849 pa • 37 hours per week • Based East & West Kent & Medway

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable. A qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example is essential. There is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team. **Ref: 656.**

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.
Interview dates: 13 & 14 May 2010 in Maidstone.

Administrator - Generic Structured Psychosocial Interventions (SPI) Service

£19,126 - £23,708 pro rata, pa • 15 hours per week • Based Canterbury

As an experienced and capable Administrator you will be able to work independently and provide efficient and high quality administrative support to KCA's Generic SPI service.

Working in a demanding environment, you should have excellent typing skills and be confident in your ability to use Microsoft Office to a high standard. As the author of the Generic SPI service's quarterly newsletter, you will be required to demonstrate a commitment to keeping up-to-date with the key issues within the field whilst also using your own creativity and innovative approach to communicate the success of the service to external organisations.

The ability to collate and input data accurately onto a database whilst managing spreadsheets on Microsoft Excel is essential. You will also be able to demonstrate an accomplished style of communicating effectively with a wide cross-section of other off-site professionals in a factual and concise manner. You need to be able to prioritise you own workload and respond appropriately to referrals within the service's targeted deadlines. **Ref: 650.**

For further information about the post, please contact the SPI Functional Specialist Lead - Toni Howes on 01227 454740 or the Administration Functional Specialist Lead - Christine Gordon on 01795 590795 ex 2.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.
Interview date: TBC.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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Closing date: 7th May 2010. Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to:

Human Resources Manager, CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333 or email gmorgan@cclind.com

Psychological Therapist

£21,519 - £27,849 pro rata, pa plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,170 pro rata, pa
Full or part time (min 23 hpw) • Evenings may be required
Based Ashford

KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration.

We require an experienced psychological therapist to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. The number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the needs of the contracted service.

You should be qualified to a minimum of diploma level in CBT, Psychodynamic Counselling or Couples Therapy. You should be eligible for either BABCP/BACP accreditation or UKCP registration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Susan Wyles on 01233 639383 or 07725 433267.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 652.

Closing date: 7 May 2010. Interview date: 19 May 2010 in Ashford.

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Based Medway

KCA (UK) Psychological Therapy Providers and mcch society ltd are looking to recruit a Co-ordinator for an exciting new Psychological Wellbeing Project. 'Way to Wellbeing' will be an educational programme to reach out across Kent and Medway enabling both the general population and those who provide services to be better equipped to deal with emotional distress.

Activities will include a programme of large scale psycho-educational workshops and delivery of Mental Health First Aid Training. You will demonstrate a knowledge, understanding and experience of working with those experiencing emotional distress or mental health difficulties as well as providing groupwork, education or training. A sound knowledge of other local services including employment and IAPT services would also be desirable.

Whilst being employed by KCA (UK) you will be required to work closely with our partners for this project and would receive an induction into both organisations.

For an informal discussion regarding this role please contact Kerry Smith, Operations Manager on 07779 658886.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 658.

Closing date: 7 May 2010.
Interview date: 19 May 2010 at Medway PTP.

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Closing date for applications: 10th May 2010.
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Fine Dining Assistant Restaurant Manager

As restaurant manager you will have the ability to deliver an exceptionally high level of customer service and who can motivate and develop a team. You will be involved in all aspects of the business including staff development, customer service, recruiting and financial controls. An exceptional knowledge of food and wine is required.

If you are interested in either of these vacancies, please send your CV with cover letter to: HR Manager, Abode Canterbury, High Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2RX

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Jobs for Kent continues on page 87...

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Text MED to 07786 208008

To advertise in this section
01892 458204

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serco

PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR

Serco Local Government, Canterbury

A vacancy has arisen for an experienced Playground Inspector to carry out programmed works as part of the maintenance/inspection regime.

- ROSPA qualification would be advantageous
- Full driving licence is essential
- CRB check is required
- 39 Hours per week (over 7 day period)
- 20 Days annual leave rising to 25 days after 5 years continuous service.

Telephone 01227 819419 for an application form.

Closing date for all completed applications will be: Tuesday 4th May 2010

Presland Care Ltd.
'Care Without Compromise'

Due to rapid growth we require
Support Workers

in Maidstone and the surrounding areas to work early mornings, evenings and weekends.Car drivers with own transport essential.Presland Care provides quality support to enable people to remain independent and live in their own homes.

For an application pack contact Jane or Rita on 01634 673333.

We are actively encouraging equal opportunities. Successful applications will be dependent on a clear Enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references. Closing date for applications Friday 7th May 2010.

AutoPlanet
Automotive Retail Group

Sales Executives
OTE £50k+ (Basic up to £18K (Supplemented) + Commission and Company Car)

Self motivated and confident with a strong desire to succeed?
Enjoy working as part of a team in a fast paced environment?
Want to be the best and be rewarded for it?
Have a genuine interest in cars and customer service?
Experience is preferred but not essential as full training will be given.

Interested?
Please forward your C.V. and covering letter to
Nicky Simmons, Head of H.R. Waters AutoPlanet, Bircholt Road, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9XY or email:
nsimmons@argltd.co.uk Full UK driving licence essential.

All applications are treated in the strictest of confidence. We are an equal opportunities employer.

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If you are interested in never having a dull moment, in the first instance please visit our website www.southeastcoachworks.co.uk and complete the online application form or apply in writing to
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The Old Coach Station, 38 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8PE.
Tel: 01795 534888. Fax: 01795 536888.

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Telephone Interviewers
(English and foreign speakers)

- DAY AND EVENING short term market research projects
- Excellent telephone manner
- Previous experience useful
- Office based – Petts Wood

Competitive hourly rates
Email: stevie.marrett@business-advantage.com

...Jobs for Kent continued from page 34

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Specialists in pipeline construction and heavy civils.

The following vacancies have arisen:

Large diameter water main Pipe Layers, Pipe Fitters & Ground Workers

Experience, ticketed individuals required to work on water main contracts
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First Aid an advantage

Interested Candidates should contact Robert Bartlett
01258 472419

Bartlett Contractors Ltd, Stearts Yard, Hinton St. Mary, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1ND
fiona@bartlettcontractors.co.uk

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require

General Domestic Assistant

Duties include washing, ironing and cleaning.
Mon - Fri 9am to noon

Chamber Person

To make beds and clean bathrooms. Experience essential
8am – noon 4 mornings per week

Tel: 01227 451243

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Requires a positive person, who can deliver excellent customer service, for the following vacancy in a traditional but progressive Members' Club.

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Part Time, Seasonal Contract.
R.C.P.G.C. is an equal opportunities employer.
Please send full details including CV to:
The Secretary, R.C.P.G.C. Golf Road, Deal, Kent. CT14 6RF
Telephone: 01304 374007

Catering Assistant

Cathedral Deli, Burgate, Canterbury CT1 2HG

- 11.00am-3.00pm Monday to Friday
- Permanent position
- £6.00 per hour

Skills required:
A love of food and ability to work in a small kitchen under pressure.
If interested please call 01227 781290 to request a job description and application form.

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The Foreland School

The Foreland is a day special school for 140 pupils with profound, severe or complex learning difficulties including some with autistic spectrum disorder.

Teacher Vacancy KS3/4
Main Scale + 1 SEN Point
Required for September 2010

We have a vacancy for a full-time class teacher to work with pupils aged 11-16years.
Class sizes range between 8 and 11 pupils, supported by at least 3 Teaching Assistants.

Experience of working with pupils with severe learning difficulties and/or ASD is desirable but not essential and applications will be welcomed from teachers wishing to transfer to this type of work. Induction training will be provided in school and there are opportunities to pursue specialist training courses. The ability to work with other disciplines and to manage a small team of your own teaching assistants is however required.

As a result of the review of special schools in Kent it is intended that the school roll will eventually rise to 165 and as a result "significant expansion" will be needed. Exciting plans for a complete rebuild of the school in conjunction with a rebuild of Hartsdown Technology College in Margate are underway via the Building Schools for the Future initiative. As our school changes flexibility in the school's organisation will need to be maintained. Candidates should therefore be aware that this post is an appointment to the school as a whole, not necessarily fixed in the current Key Stage.

If possible, interested persons should make an informal visit to the school in order to meet the Head of Department and find out more about the nature of the work involved.

The school also currently has 2 vacancies in the administration support team. Whilst the roles are distinctly separate there is a possibility that the 2 positions could be combined for a suitably qualified and experienced candidate.

Data/Personnel Assistant
15 hours per week

Inclusion Support and INSET Administrator
10 hours per week
Salary scale Kent Scheme 5

Reporting to the School Business Manager you will be smart, cheerful and well spoken so that you project a suitably professional image of the school to the many people with whom you are in contact. Methodical and well organised you will set a good example to your colleagues, and you will be committed to team development and team working. The ability to maintain a positive working atmosphere within this small but busy team is essential, as is the need to share knowledge and skills with colleagues in order to increase the effectiveness of the team.

You will be proficient in the use of ICT and willing to explore a range of software with a view to making the school offices even more efficient and effective. Previous financial experience, including the ability to monitor and report on budget income and expenditure, is an essential quality for both positions, together with experience of delivering high quality, professional administrative support. Candidates will also need to be totally committed to working in a confidential and discrete manner due to the sensitive nature of many of the duties of the roles.

It is a specific requirement that candidates for the position of Personnel / Data Assistant will need to demonstrate previous experience or qualification in Personnel and payroll, including relevant personnel and recruitment legislation.

The Foreland School is committed to the safeguarding and well-being of children therefore all successful candidates will need to pass an Enhanced CRB check.

To arrange a visit to the school please telephone 01843 863891 and ask to speak to the School Business Manager or PA to the Head Teacher.

Requests for application packs should be made by email, quoting the position of interest to: foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications for all positions is Monday 17 May 2010
Interviews are expected to take place during week commencing 24 May 2010.

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Personal Wellness Coaches

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Admin Assistant/Receptionist

required for June 2010

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Tel 01634 844127
Email: office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk

To advertise in this section
01892 458204

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for 2...

DEPARTMENT CO-ORDINATORS COMMENCING SEPT 2010 TO LEAD NURSERY/KS1 AND KS4/5 (FURTHER EDUCATION), IN THIS PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

MPS + TLR 2 (£6,057) + 2 SEN POINTS

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. Applications are invited from experienced special school teachers or those with an interest in developing management skills within a specialist context. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

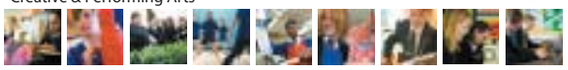
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 14th May 2010
Interviews will be held on 24th May 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Spires Academy

Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com
NOR: 412 | Principal: Ian Johnson
Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts



Learning Support Assistant (AEN)

£14,311 - £16,225 pro rata • 22.5 hours per week
Mon – Fri, 8.50 – 1.20 • Term times + inset

We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant, to join our successful Support & Guidance Team to work with students who have a wide range of additional educational needs.

You will be energetic and a champion of children, with an interest in science and experience of working with students with additional educational needs.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

For further details and an application pack, please contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392.

Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Spires Academy

Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com
NOR: 412 | Principal: Ian Johnson
Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Administration Assistant

Academy Pay Scheme Level 4: £16,225 - £17,046 • 20 hours per week • Term time + inset

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results and value-added in each of it's first two years. Student numbers in year 7 have doubled and we are rapidly moving towards our target roll of 600. Planning for the new building is underway and there is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Following internal promotion we require an Administration Assistant to join our Support & Guidance Team. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

For further details and an application pack, please contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392.

Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

The John Wallis Church of England Academy (proposed)

Director of Finance and Operations

Salary range: £55,000 - £65,000

Applications are invited for the above post at The John Wallis Church of England Academy, which will open in September 2010 replacing Christ Church School, Ashford. The Academy will cater for 1050 students aged 11-16 with a post 16 provision for a further 250 students.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a newly appointed Principal Designate as part of the Senior Leadership Team to lead this new academy which will move into new buildings in September 2013. Candidates must possess an appropriate relevant qualification, have executive management skills, proven financial management skills and strategic vision and experience of working at a senior management level. This post offers tremendous scope for initiative, flair and creativity.

Closing date for receipt of application is 12 noon Wednesday 28th April

Interviews will be held Tuesday 11th May 2010.

Further details and application pack from jireland@diocant.org or telephone 01227 459401. If you would like an informal discussion with John McParland, Principal Designate, regarding this post please call 07852 236444.

www.proposedacademyforashford.org

Canterbury Christ Church University

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Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

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Agency

MidKent College

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009.

Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus.

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

Salary: c£46k

Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section.

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

Salary: c£46k

Comprising the A Level, Access and Higher Education curriculum areas, this Faculty is based at both our new Medway Campus and at the nearby University of Kent which accommodates most of the Access and HE provision. The successful candidate will have a strong track record of leading within these curriculum areas and in improving outcomes for students.

Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010

Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010

Benefits Include:
• Benenden Healthcare • Pension • Generous Annual Leave • Flexible working

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investor in People

TERM TIME TEACHERS

TEACHERS AND COVER SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED

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e-mail: **office@termtimeteachers.co.uk**

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a...

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2010

MPS + 2 SEN Points + TLR 2C £2478 (with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 14th May 2010

Interviews will be held on 20th May 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Kent Play Clubs

"Hands up for quality kids clubs"

2-3 Raywood Office Complex
Leacon Lane, Charing, Ashford, Kent.
TN27 0ET.
T: 01233 713813 F: 01233 713847
E: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
W: www.kentplayclubs.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1104141
Registered Company No: 4649786

Dance & Sports activities for Children (5-11 yrs) at After School Club sessions.

Do you have experience/qualifications of working with groups of children (5-11yrs) encouraging them to get involved in dance and/or sports activities? Are you available between 3-6pm on weekday evenings & during school holidays?
Salary £10 per hour, hours negotiable.
This project is supported by BBC Children in Need.
All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Contact **Kent Play Clubs** for an application pack
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
Closing date for applications **7th May 2010.**

Are you looking for experience working in a child-care setting?

Are you currently unemployed or seeking employment?
Kent Play Clubs has funding to provide volunteer work placements and support in improving job-seeking skills.
Places are currently available for a 10 week course including 6 weeks gaining experience at an After School Club.
Gaining experience will improve your chance of securing employment.
If you are interested, please contact **Kent Play Clubs** for an application pack.
This project is supported by the European Social Fund

Senior Club Co-Ordinator at St Michael's After School Club

We are looking for an enthusiastic, caring and responsible adult to work 2.45pm-6pm
MON to FRI (term time only), with relevant experience and NVQ level 3 qualification in childcare.
Immediate start
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk

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Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper
@invictamotors.com

Admin Assistant/Receptionist
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Delce Infant School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 844127
Email office@
delceinf.medway.sch.uk

Catering, Hospitality

WAIT STAFF
Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@ageandsons.co.uk

Part time Cook
Thanet
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Operations Manager
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Abode Canterbury
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email hrmanagercanterbury
@abodehotels.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Tuesday 4th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 819419
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Telephone Interviewers
Orpington
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
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Email stevie.marrett@
business-advantage.com

Debt Negotiator
Bromley
Salary: £15,500 - £17,500 OTE
To apply/more information:
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CARER RECRUITMENT – OPEN AFTERNOONS
Kent
Salary: TBA
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Education, Teacher, School

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering
Medway
Salary: c£46k
Closing Date: Thursday 29 April 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications
@midkent.ac.uk

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies
Medway
Salary: c£46k
Closing Date: Thursday 29 April 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications
@midkent.ac.uk

Administration Assistant
Canterbury
Salary: £16,225 - £17,046 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 3rd May 2010
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392
Email m.wigington
@spiresacademy.com

NVQ ASSESSORS
Sandwich
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
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Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304-614765
Email applications@
jobsforkent.co.uk

New Careers in Health and Wellness
Maidstone
Salary: £1000.00+ per mnth
To apply/more information:
Arriba
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664861
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Engineers
N/A
Salary: $100k - 200k
To apply/more information:
Tony Ayo
Pentro Drilling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 002348039736271
Email careers
@pentrodrilling.com

HR, Recruitment

SENIOR RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
Folkestone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Recruitment Solutions (Folkestone) Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 220099
Email joe@rsfl.co.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Fine Dining Restaurant Manager
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
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Email hrmanagercanterbury
@abodehotels.co.uk

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Tel: 01233 503333
Email gmorgan@cclind.com

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Sales Executives
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Salary: OTE £50k+
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apply/more information:
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Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email nsimmons@argltd.co.uk

Vehicle Technicians
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper
@invictamotors.com

Sales Executives
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper
@invictamotors.com

Not for profit, Charities

PART TIME CHARITY FUNDRAISER
Medway
To apply/more information:
Tel: 01634 713739
Email medwayswale
@btconnect.com

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Area Manager
Kent
Salary: TBA
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Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Care Workers
Kent
Salary: TBA
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Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Team Leaders
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Community DrugWorker
Kent
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849 pa
Closing Date: Friday 30 April 2010
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 656
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

COMMUNITY CARERS
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Meridian Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 712300
Email MeridianCbury@aol.com

Support Workers
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 7th May 2010.
To apply/more information:
Presland Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 673333
Email info@preslandcare.co.uk

RGN (NIGHTS)
Chislehurst
Salary: £14.63 PER HOUR
Closing Date: 30 April 2010
To apply/more information:
RMBI
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 467 0081
Email princegeorge
@rmbi.org.uk

Assistant Manager
Folkestone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email applications
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Career in Care
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Enterprising Opportunities
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Salary: £8.25 to £10.00 per hour
To apply/more information:
TerraBlu Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 529429
Email emma.foard
@terrablu.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Psychological Therapist
Ashford
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849 pro rata
Closing Date: 7 May 2010
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 652
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications
@jobsforkent.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales People
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Black Tie Foods Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 760484
Email blacktie@btconnect.com

Manager
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Pantiles Bride
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email maria@pantilesbride.com

Bridal Sales Consultant
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Email maria@pantilesbride.com

Self Employed Book Seller
Kent
Salary: OTE £45K PA
To apply/more information:
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 606 4276
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Bookshop Manager
Sandwich
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Sandwich Bookshop
Quoting Job Ref: kos Email
applications@
jobsforkent.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Finchcocks, Goudhurst**
Applicant: **Katrina Burnett**
Name of Premises: **Penshurst Place, Penshurst, Tonbridge**
Applicant: **Viscount De L'Isle**
Name of Premises: **Royal Wells Hotel, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells**
Applicant: **Peter Ratcliffe**
Name of Premises: **Salomons, Broomhill Road, Southborough**
Applicant: **Andrew Daniells**
Name of Premises: **Chiddingstone Castle, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone**
Applicant: **Simon Smallwood**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

We Mission House Investments Ltd of The Mission House, 10, High Street, Cowden, Kent TN8 7JB hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities;

1. Sale of alcohol by retail

In respect of the premises situated at 33, Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2RS and to be known by the sign of Kenny G's Off Licence

The application can be viewed at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 20th May 2010.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere,
Leybourne,
West Malling
Kent.
ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Rowhill Grange, Wilmington**
Applicant: **Anne Grimwood**
Name of Premises: **Brandshatch Place Hotel, Brandshatch Road, Fawkham**
Applicant: **Andrew Oxby**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applicationsThe Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/01148/HOUSE **Mill Street Cottage Mill Street, Benenden**
- Retrospective - Lean to porch (LB) (CA)

10/00983/LBC **The Corner House Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Construction of stairs from ground floor shop to cellar (LB)

10/01104/HOUSE **1 Oak Cottages Whitewell Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Reconstruction of boundary wall to match existing wall which was damaged as a result of vehicle impact (CA) (LB)

10/01036/FUL **3 Royal Chase Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Change of use from residential accommodation for nursing staff to single dwelling (work commenced) (CA)

10/01167/LBC **38 Mount Ephraim Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of shop front fascia and front elevation advertising wall board (LB)

10/01189/LBC **Jordan Cottage 47 Church Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: refurbishment including external and internal works (LB)

10/01172/HOUSE **Catherine Wheel Farmhouse Sand Lane, Frittenden**
- Conversion of existing playroom and store to kitchen/dining room; installation of new windows to dining area and new flue terminal; installation of new rooflights (LB)

10/01177/LBC **Catherine Wheel Farmhouse Sand Lane, Frittenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of existing playroom and store to kitchen/dining room; installation of new windows to dining area and new flue terminal; removal of easting internal wall and ceiling; installation of new insulated plasterboard ceiling to roof pitch; installation of new rooflights (LB)

10/01125/FUL **The Old Bank The Plain, Goudhurst**
- Single storey side extension (CA)

10/01098/LBC **Woodsden Barn Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to doors and windows; Replacement of single-glazing with Slimlite double glazing units; Redecoration of external joinery to darker tone (LB)

10/01155/FUL **Abacus House Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Change of use from fishing tackle shop to body art studio (CA)

10/01097/OUTMJ **Little Rhoden Farm Lucks Lane, Paddock Wood**
- Outline: Part demolition of existing buildings and the construction of replacement buildings with extension of existing retained building for B8 storage and distribution use and for marquee hire companies. Removal of portacabins (MAJOR)

10/01046/HOUSE **68 Warwick Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Childrens play area on an existing terraced area at the rear of the garden, incorporating a small tree house (CA)

10/01170/FUL **7 Nevill Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Part Retrospective: Change of use of building to hotel use (Class C1) ancillary to The Brew House Hotel, creation of rooflight on side roof slope, insertion of louvres in front and rear roof slopes, and erection of canopy over rear door (CA) (LB)

10/00852/HOUSE **Kent House Camden Park, Park**
- Erection of replacement annexe ancillary to Kent House (CA)

10/01090/FUL **20 Camden Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Change of use from A1 to A3 restaurant and cafe (CA)

10/01166/HOUSE **12 Common View Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall**
- Retrospective - Addition of chimney/flue to south east roof elevation (CA)

10/01208/HOUSE **Boxhurst Oast Boxhurst, Sandhurst**
- Changes to approved plans for the construction of a pool house (LB)

10/01214/LBC **Salomons Centre David Salomons Estate, Southborough And High Brooms**
- Listed Building Consent: masonry repairs to damaged stone lintel over first floor rear external opening, and balcony ballustrading (LB)

10/01064/FUL **The Orchard London Road, Southborough North**
- New single-storey dwelling (CA)

10/01085/HOUSE **Black Lion House Fordcombe Road, Speldhurst**
- Alterations to existing outbuilding to facilitate its reuse as an annex (LB)

10/01087/LBC **Black Lion House Fordcombe Road, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to existing outbuilding to facilitate its reuse as an annex (LB)

10/01173/HOUSE **Burnt House Burnt House Lane, Speldhurst**
- Conversion of a garage/store to habitable accomodation with a two storey extension (LB)

10/01186/HOUSE **59 The Boundary Langton Green, Speldhurst**
- Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of existing integral garage to utility room (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 24 April 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway widening and improvements at M20 Junction 9 and Drovers Roundabout, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order on Various Roads, Ashford, on or after 10 May 2010, for an estimated period of 11 months or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on both carriageways of Fougeres Way from the 40 mph / National Speed Limit signs onto and including M20 Junction 9 Roundabout in its entirety, extending onto both carriageways of Trinity Road (properly Sparrows Hall Road) north to the 40 mph / National Speed Limit signs.

This is effective as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months and will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

M20-JUNCTION 9 - VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD (40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to impose a 40 miles per hour speed limit and revoke a national speed limit on the lengths of roads described in the Schedules hereto.

A copy of the Order, an explanatory statement and maps showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent Highway Services, Network Management, Invicta House, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XX and at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL.

Anyone wishing to support this proposal, or to object to it, should write to John Jones, KHS Road Safety, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6GB quoting The Kent County Council (M20-Junction 9 - Various Roads, Ashford) (40mph Speed Limit) Order 2010 stating their reasons, by not later than 17 May 2010.

Schedule 1: 40mph speed limit

A251 Trinity Road, Ashford
From its southern junction with Rutherford Road southwards to its junction with M20 Junction 9 Roundabout

M20 Junction 9 Roundabout, Ashford
From its north-eastern junction with A251 Trinity Road to its south-western junction with A20 Fougeres Way for its entire length

A20 Fougeres Way, Ashford
From its north-eastern junction with M20 Junction 9 Roundabout south-westwards to its junction with A20 Drovers Roundabout

Schedule 2: Revocation of national speed limit

A251 Trinity Road, Ashford
From its southern junction with Rutherford Road southwards to its junction with M20 Junction 9 Roundabout

M20 Junction 9 Roundabout, Ashford
From its north-eastern junction with A251 Trinity Road to its south-western junction with A20 Fougeres Way for its entire length

A20 Fougeres Way, Ashford
From its north-eastern junction with M20 Junction 9 Roundabout south-westwards to its junction with A20 Drovers Roundabout

MONKERY LANE, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of urgent carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Monkery Lane, Charing, on or after 10 May 2010 for an estimated period of 2 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed for its entire length. The alternative route for through traffic will be via A252 Canterbury Road and Faversham Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

A226 THAMES WAY AND A2260, DARTFORD (24 HOUR CLEARWAY) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) and 4(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce a clearway Order to the roads or following lengths of road:-

(a) A266 Thames Way from the roundabout junction with Stonebridge Road and Grove Road, south west and south east to the junction with B262 Springhead Road.

(b) A2260 from the junction with A226 Thames Way south west, south and south east to the junction with the on slip road west of Ebbsfleet Junction C roundabout and to the junction with the off slip road east of Ebbsfleet Junction B.

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford, ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 17 May 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

WROTHAM ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY RESRICTION OF TRAFFIC) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use of traffic at any greater speed than 30mph on Wrotham Road, Gravesend from 140m north of centre of Chalky Bank junction to 20m south of traffic island on north side of former A2 trunk road.

The Order will become effective on 26th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the restriction is to facilitate safety to road users and work force.

EAST CRESCENT ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use of vehicular traffic on East Crescent Road, Gravesend from its junction with Milton Road up for 20 metres.

The Order will become effective on 10th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Bentley Street and Milton Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Murphy's Limited to install a new electricity supply.

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 10th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate micro surfacing works.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Blenheim Close, Meopham.**
Extent:	For its entire length.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Road Name:	**Grenville Close, Meopham.**
Extent:	For its entire length.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Road Name:	**Oak Mead, Meopham.**
Extent:	For its entire length.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Road Name:	**Warwick Gardens, Meopham.**
Extent:	For its entire length.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Road Name:	**Meadfield Road, Meopham.**
Extent:	From its junction with Wrotham Road to Cheyne Walk.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Diversion:	Cheyne Walk, Whitehill Road, The Street and Wrotham Road.
Road Name:	**Cheyne Walk, Meopham.**
Extent:	From its junction with Meadfield Road and Whitehill Road.
Date:	13th May 2010 for 1 week.
Diversion:	Whitehill Road, The Street, Wrotham Road and Meadfield Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE (SPEED LIMITS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will extend the 30 mph speed limit from the existing termination point in Boughton Lane (approximately in line with the southern flank wall of 64 Boughton Lane) for a distance of 186 metres in a southerly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 17 May 2010.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 ZEBRA CROSSING – WALLIS AVENUE, MAIDSTONE

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

(a) 40 metres north west of the centre of the roundabout at the junction with Brishing Lane and Wallis Avenue.

(b) 79 metres south east of the junction with Hollingworth Road.

STOCKETT LANE, TOVIL PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stockett Lane from the Scout Hut to Abbey Gate Farm on or after Thursday 13th May 2010 for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Bockingford Lane, Hayle Mill Road and Cave Hill.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to film a road safety film. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alexa Kersting-Woods on 01622 69835

VARIOUS ROADS AT LADDINGFORD AND YALDING IN THE PARISH OF YALDING (RESTRICTED ROADS AND 40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make the above named Order under section 82, 83, and 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 30 mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

Leeds Road	**Gravelly Ways**
Claygate Road	**Darman Lan**
Clevesland	**St Mary's Close**

The effect of this Order will also introduce a 40 mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

Gravelly Ways	**Simmonds Lane**
Lees Road	

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU and at Invicta House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support or object to the proposed order, you should send the grounds in writing to The Transportation & Development Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.maidstone.tonbridgeandmalling @kent.gov.uk by noon on 17 May 2010.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

ACCESS ROAD SEVENOAKS RAILWAY STATION INTO LONDON ROAD, SEVENOAKS PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN & RIGHT TURN (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Orders under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The first named Order will:-

Prohibit any vehicle from making a left turn from the eastern arm of the access road to Sevenoaks Station into London Road, Sevenoaks except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

The second named Order will:-

Prohibit any vehicle from making a right turn from the western arm of the access road to Sevenoaks Station into London Road, Sevenoaks except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Argyll Road, Sevenoaks and at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transportation & Development Manager (Tunbridge Wells), Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7EZ or by email to khstdsevtwell@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 17 May 2010.

DORSET STREET, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Dorset Street, Sevenoaks between numbers 8 to 101.

The Order will become effective on 10th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: London road and High Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a New Gas Supply.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

LEAVELAND BELLES FORSTAL, THROWLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of electricity cable replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Leaveland Belles Forstal, Throwley, on or after 10 May 2010, for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Leaveland Court. The alternative route for through traffic will be via A251 Ashford Road, Bagshill Road, Throwley Road and Workhouse Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

LAVENDER HILL, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lavender Hill, Tonbridgefrom the junction of Lavender Hill and Pembury Road to the junction with Drayton Road , on or after Monday 26th April 2010for a period of up to 7 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Priory Road, Railway, Approach, Pembrury Road and vice versa.

Southern Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to install a new Southern Water foul/Storm Pipeline

Should you require any further information the South East Water contact is Stephen Smith on 01273 66350

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

Exciting all-new S60 maps Volvo's future

By **STEVE LOADER**

THIS year is pivotal for Volvo.

The Swedish marque is about to launch its most important model for ages, while the sale of the company by Ford to the Chinese Geely Automobile company should go through later in the year.

It is fair to say that rarely has such excitement been generated by a new Volvo; the brand's image as a thoughtful, safety-conscious entity prevails despite recent attempts to re-orientate its appeal.

And the company is probably still more famous for robust estates rather than sportier offerings such as the underrated C30 hatchback/coupé.

However, the all-new S60 – available to order from £23,295 ahead of launch in July – should really start to change perceptions.

This racy four-door coupé/saloon builds on the current car's sleek lines and should put pressure on German rivals like the BMW 3-Series, Audi A4 and Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

Volvo promises that trio will feel the heat on the handling front too; a rework of the chassis on the bigger S80 showed the company now has the savvy to right the woolly failings of the current S60.

It is also a safe bet that much of the new S60's hidden architecture is shared with the Ford Mondeo – no slouch in the handling department.

Concealed rear door handles add to the classy coupé look, increasingly fashionable in the executive sector and currently championed, most obviously, by Jaguar's highly acclaimed XF and the VW Passat CC.

Engines include an all-new five-cylinder 163bhp 2.0-litre D3 engine capable of a combined 54.3mpg to satisfy those who want their four-door coupé to have real world economy too, though the familiar Volvo twin-turbo D5 powerplant also features to give 0-62mph in 7.8 seconds yet average more than 50mpg.

There is also a fast all-wheel drive 304bhp 3.0-litre petrol T6 (from £35,695) – continuing a latter-day Volvo tradition of using 'T' to denote the performance flagship – this will hit 62mph in just 6.5 seconds.

However, Volvo cannot quite shake its roots in safety, so the new car may be specified with Volvo's ground-breaking Pedestrian Detection package, which can stop a collision with a pedestrian at up to 21mph and dramatically reduce speed above that, with potentially life-saving consequences – but the option costs £1,350.

Standard features though include electronic climate and cruise controls, five-inch colour screen for the 'infotainment' system, steering wheel remote audio controls, alloys and leather steering wheel and gear stick.

There is also an exterior styling kit (£1,150) for those wanting to make the most of the car's good looks.

The signs are good for both new S60 and the brand, which enjoyed its best first quarter in the UK for 18 years, despite the gloomy economy.

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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO_2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); LOWEST: C1 1.0i 12V 68HP 5.5/51.4, 3.9/72.4, 4.5/62.8, 106. .HIGHEST: C4 HATCHBACK 1.6 16V VTi 120HP AUTO 9.9/28.5, 5.4/52.3, 7.0/40.4, 165.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Engine highlights change to new TT

NO DOUBT with an eye on Peugeot's stunning new RCZ due out shortly, Audi has revamped its TT coupé icon for the 2011 model year.

The work includes a new 2.0-litre TFSI turbocharged engine, which improves fuel economy by up to 14 per cent over its previous equivalent.

A sport button, first seen in the TT RS, is now available as an option across the range – it alters throttle response, steering servo assistance and engine note.

But most of the work is more subtle, with interior and exterior nips and tucks, new colours inside and out, and xenon headlamps with LED daytime running lights now standard for S line versions.

The new 211PS (208bhp) engine can reach 62mph in 6.1 seconds and yet should average more than 40mpg – providing the 0-62mph sprint is not put to the test too often.

Touran family wagon gets looks too

THERE'S a strong family resemblance to the new VW Touran which arrives later this year.

The German marque's seven-seat people carrier has been re-worked to bring it into line with the styling of the latest Polo, Golf and Touareg models.

The cabin has also had a makeover to help it challenge the midi-MPV sector's UK leader, the Vauxhall Zafira.

In keeping with current trends, there are two small capacity turbocharged petrol units offered alongside efficient VW diesels that have tended to be the mainstay choices.

The entry-level petrol engine is a new 1.2-litre TSI unit delivering 105 PS (103bhp) and there is a 1.4-litre TSI offering 140 PS (137bhp).

VW's automatic parking system ParkAssist, allowing the vehicle to park in parallel and end-on spaces, is also offered.

The new Touran goes on sale in the UK in September – prices and specifications to be announced.

Testing times for Saab and its latest model

FOR more on Saab's return from the dead, see our road test report on the Saab Convertible.

But for more on the Swedish marque's future, keep an eye on the all-new 9-5 saloon said to be the most technically advanced car ever produced by the company.

It is priced from £26,495 with a generous standard spec and all turbocharged engine line-up starting with a 180PS (177bhp) 1.6-litre petrol unit.

Saab, being true to early rallying successes, has tested the car rigorously in tough conditions including forest tracks near the Arctic Circle.

Order books are open for the 9-5, but it will be interesting to see whether would-be buyers will have confidence in an all-new car from a brand that nearly closed earlier this year.

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FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR JOURNEY 2.0 CRD SE MANUAL IN MPG (L/100 KM): URBAN 34.4 (8.2), EXTRA URBAN 55.4 (5.1), COMBINED 44.8 (6.3). CO_2 EMISSIONS (COMBINED) 165 G/KM

Car shown is a Journey 2.0 CRD RT Manual £22,595 OTR. *Range pricing of £16,995 refers to Journey 2.4 SE Manual, including Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), first registration fee and VAT. Model features optional metallic paint at an additional £450 including VAT. †Excluding SE models. ‡RT models only. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press (04/10). Dodge is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

by STEVELOADER

Hyundai puts rivals to shame in reliability poll

HYUNDAI'S i30 has scooped the prize as the UK's most reliable car, according to the prestigious Driver Power Top 100.

It also knocked the impressive Jaguar XF into second place – the executive saloon won in 2009 and costs around twice the price of the Korean Ford Focus equivalent.

Another perennial favourite, the Skoda Octavia, was also knocked back to third, while the Hyundai's most obvious rival, the Focus fetched up at 51 in the poll across more than 23,000 drivers.

In the manufacturer rankings, the Octavia helped Skoda to number one, while embattled Toyota will take comfort from the number two slot earned by its Lexus luxury brand.

Breakthrough

The i30 helped Hyundai make the biggest overall leap, jumping 12 places to finish sixth and rather suggests that the brand's cars do not need the reassurance of its standard five-year warranty.

Worst marque for reliability was Peugeot, thanks to poor performances by its now defunct 307 family hatch and current 207 supermini.

Driver Power is run in conjunction with Auto Express, where editor-in-chief David Johns said: "Congratulations to Hyundai. This is a huge breakthrough for the brand.

"Over the years, owners have told us what good value its cars are. This is the final proof that Hyundais can now match that with real all-round reliability and satisfaction."

1

2

3

THE FULL DRIVER POWER TOP 10

1) HYUNDAI I30
2) JAGUAR XF
3) SKODA OCTAVIA
4) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MKVI
5) RENAULT MÉGANE MKIII
6) LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 3
7) ROVER 75
8) MERCEDES E-CLASS (2002-2009)
9) TOYOTA PRIUS (2003-2009)
10) JAGUAR S-TYPE

OTHER AWARD WINNERS:

Best Running costs – Fiat Panda

Reliability – Toyota Prius.
Auto Express reports: "It's had a tough time of late but the Driver Power results speak volumes – Toyota Prius owners have had no problems to report. That's remarkable in a car that packs so much hi-tech equipment."

Ease of driving – Toyota Prius

Practicality – Land Rover Discovery 3

Build quality – Lexus IS (old model)

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0% APR

07 07 Zafira 1.6 Life in Ultra Blue

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Deposit	£99
Balance to Finance	£7,896
60 Monthly Payments of	£131.60
Total Charge For Credit	£0
Total Amount Payable	£7,995

0% APR

08 08 Astra 1.6 Sxi 5 Dr in Metro

Cash Price	£8,995
Deposit	£99
Balance to Finance	£8,896
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Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE. 42186.

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DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Saab 9-3 Aero

IF YOU wondered about all the fuss when Saab faced closure a few weeks ago then the Saab Convertible is one big reason.

It highlights what the Swedish motor brand has stood for in its comparatively short life: thinking outside the box.

The company started as a tiny offshoot of Saab aerospace in 1949, using aerodynamic styling and innovative engineering inherited from its parent.

It famously promoted lighter and cheaper front-wheel drive and then turbocharging, also notching firsts in car making including: seatbelts as standard, headlamp wipers and washers, heated front seats, impact-absorbing bumpers, pollen filters for car ventilation systems, split-vision door mirrors and asbestos-free brakes.

The marque also followed a distinctive path with dashboards – ergonomic masterpieces inspired by its aviation heritage – and, from 1969, sited the ignition key near the gearshift to avoid the risk of knee damage in a crash.

And so to the convertible, which traces its origins to 1986, when Saab produced a crop-top version of its final in-house design, the legendary 900.

It was a brave move for a company that, even then, was battling entrenched German executive marques and couldn't resist falling under General Motors' control in 1989.

That partnership seemed doomed from the start and Saab closed briefly this year as GM sought to cut group losses, only to sanction spinning off its Swedish arm into partnership with Dutch supercar maker Spyker – sweetened by a 400 million euro loan from the EU.

When the new partnership resumed production at Saab's Trollhattan plant last month, it was symbolic that one of the first vehicles off the line should be a 9-3 Convertible – probably the only credible rival to big-hitters like the Audi A4 and BMW 3-Series convertibles and set to play a major role in reviving the company.

Now into its third generation (priced from £26,800) since that 1980s predecessor, our test car looked striking in bright red and had the smooth and economical 1.9 turbodiesel engine in 180bhp form, allowing the car to average around 45mpg and endowing decent pace too, considering extra strengthening needed

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7 YEAR SWITCH

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Fuel consumption fi gures in mpg (l/100 km) for the range of vehicles shown are: Urban: 30.7 (9.2) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra Urban: 48.7 (5.8) – 72.4 (3.9), Combined: 40.4 (7.0) – 67.3 (4.2). C02 emissions are 165 – 110 g/km. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. See your local dealer or visit www.kia.co.uk for full warranty terms and conditions. Prices correct at time of going to press and specifi cation is subject to change without notice. Models shown: 1.4 Rio 1 @ £6,395 On The Road (OTR) including £1,500 trade in allowance; 1.4 cee'd 1 @ £10,595 OTR including £2,000 trade in allowance; 1.6 Soul 1 @ £9,500 OTR including £2,000 trade in allowance; 1.4 Venga 1 @ £9,995 OTR including £1,500 trade in allowance and 1.0 Picanto 1 @ £5,395 OTR including £1,500 trade in allowance. OTR prices includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Metallic / mica paint is available at additional cost. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01 April 2010 and 30 June 2010. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms and conditions apply – please see your local dealer for full details.

the Saab tradition

to maintain rigidity without a proper roof.

To be fair though, the idea of a convertible was in the mix when the current car's platform was at the planning stage and it shows in the car's composure, even on current indifferent road surfaces.

It's a rewarding car to drive too, with the front-driven chassis gripping the corners well.

But the executive convertible class is probably less about driving at the limit and more about image and style and the Saab makes a statement on both: on the first it stands apart from normal German 'suspects' and, on the second, because it looks good with hood up or down.

The three-layer powered top does an excellent job in keeping out road noise and can be raised in about half a minute and while the car is moving at up to 20mph.

Top down, the cabin is also reasonably well protected from hurricane forces when side windows are up though, like all four-seat convertibles, those in the back get caught in the swirl around the windscreen once the side glass is down. Space in the back for two people is generous – one of the best at this level – and the Saab line-up comes generously equipped, though this takes you well over £30,000 in the case of our Aero flagship model.

In the Saab tradition the dashboard is painstakingly arranged, if a little dated in style, and boot space with the roof down is good, although it can be hit and miss ensuring that the roof isn't going to halt during retraction due to an obstruction.

DrivingPortfolio

SAAB 9-3 AERO 180 1.9 TTID CONVERTIBLE £33,275

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£155/year (£155 year one)
Best rival	Audi A4 Convertible

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: sometimes having to fiddle about with luggage in the boot to ensure the roof folds

NOT SURE: the Saab quite matches the quality levels of dearer German rivals

REALLY LIKE: the Saab's stylish appeal as a genuine alternative to the 'usual suspects'

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CHEVROLET

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Price of £6645 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev90090)
Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

The new Superb Estate.
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We've reduced the prices of all Fabia and Octavia until 30th June 2010, which means it's like not having to pay the VAT. That's a saving of up to £2,110.43† on a Fabia and £3,388.30† on an Octavia.

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Škoda. Manufacturer of happy drivers.

Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only. **Official fuel consumption for the Superb range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 44.8 (6.3); Extra urban 36.2 (7.8) – 70.6 (4.0); Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions for the Superb range 129 – 237 g/km.** Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 30th June 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. †Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. **Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 – 237**

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05 55 Peugeot 206 1.4 Verve 3door hatchback, finished in black with contrasting interior, Alloy wheels, sports seats, air conditioning, CD/radio, front fog lights, air bags and ABS, a genuine low mileage car and in lovely condition, be quick **£5495**

02 52 Peugeot 206 CC Finished in Aegean metallic blue with contrasting black leather interior. Alloy wheels. air conditioning, ABS, EW, electric folding roof and very rare SP kit fitted. Beautiful condition throughout..... **£5495**

06 06 Citroen C3 1.4 Plurial, Finished metallic blue with silver detailing, very versatile roof, choose a targa top or a full convertible in minutes!! air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, alloys wheels, good value **£5995**

08 58 Peugeot 107 Urban 1.0 3 door, Finished in red with contrasting interior, electric windows and remote central locking 4 airbags, folding rear seat, fantastic fuel economy and only £35 per year road tax, value at only **£5995**

06 06 Nissan Note 1.6SE Auto CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, on board computer, 15" Alloys, Air Conditioning, Front & Rear Electric Windows, Sliding Rear Seats with Flexi-board storage system..... **£6495**

06 06 Honda Jazz 1.3SE 5 door, finished A one owner car, equipment includes Alloys, Air Conditioning, CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, Electrically adjustable & heated wing mirrors, Electric windows front & rear, Remote central locking..... **£6995**

05 05 Vauxhall Tigra Sport Twinport 1.4, Lovely looking, fun car, perfect all year round, 36,000 miles..... **£7495**

04 04 Peugeot 307 2.0, Metallic blue with black leather upholstery. Electric folding roof, AC, alloy's , tinted glass, remote central locking, front fog lights power fold mirrors, auto headlamp's and wipers. Peugeot service history, low mileage for year..... **£7595**

08 08 Ford Fiesta Freedom 1.4, Stunning example of this popular hatchback, one former keeper, FSH, Heated windscreen, Front Fogs, Aux Input, 20,900 miles **£7750**

08 08 Ford Fiesta 1.4 AUTO Style 3dr, hatchback finished in metallic red with grey interior. rare automatic, air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, a one owner car with low mileage, only **£7995**

07 07 Citroen Picasso HDI MPV, finished in silver with contrasting dark grey interior, great spec including air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, a nice example of this popular family car and value at **£7995**

09 09 Corsa 1.4 Club 5dr Well equipped with Air conditioning, Electric front windows, electric wing mirrors, CD/radio with steering wheel controls, MP3 connectivity and 6 airbags **£8495**

08 08 Citroen Berlingo M-SP VTR 1.6 16v, Spacious people carrier for work and family. One owner from new, with full service history, 7353 miles..... **£8495**

09 58 Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr A good looking car in silver with dark grey interior, alloy wheels, front foglights, Air conditioning, electric front windows, electric wing mirrors, MP3 connectivity, CD/radio with steering wheel controls. **£8995**

07 07 SEAT Leon 1.6 Hatch 5dr Finished in silver with contrasting interior, air conditioning, remote central locking, CD radio with mp3, airbags, abs, low mileage for year and good value **£8995**

06 06 Mazda 5 2.0 Sport, Room for All the family in this well equipped 6 seater with CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Sliding rear doors, Climate control, 17" alloys **£9495**

06 06 Honda Civic 1.8ES I-VTEC A host of features, including CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Dual zone climate control, Electric windows front & rear, electric wing mirrors, cruise control and Reverse park sensors..... **£9495**

09 09 Micra 1.2 '25' 5dr Our ex. Demo. An economical to run car with CD/Radio and ipod connection, steering wheel audio controls, Electric front windows, Electric wing mirrors, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels **£9995**

07 57 Mini One 1.6 3dr, Finished in deep metallic red with a contrasting interior. Air con, electric windows, remote central locking, alloy wheels, ABS, CD player, front fog lights, service history, cheap running costs. One owner from new..... **£10495**

05 05 Volkswagen Golf 2.0GTi Automatic 5dr, A fabulous drive with many features including 17" alloys, climate control, front foglights, electric windows all round, electric/heated wing mirrors, radio/CD with 10 speakers..... **£11995**

06 56 Nissan 2.5dci Navara Aventura Hard top, load liner and towbar, Satellite Navigation, Climate control, CD/Radio, Electric windows front & rear, Electric wing mirrors, electric sunroof, full leather upholstery with heated front seats, Alloy wheels and front foglights.... **£11995 +VAT**

07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 2.0 VTR+ Automatic, Just arrived! A spacious 7 seater with remote central locking, Electric mirrors, Front foglights, Air conditioning, Trip computer, Steering wheel audio controls, 16" alloys, Trip computer, ESP **£11995**

04 04 Nissan 350Z, A dream drive with a powerful 276 bhp 3.5 litre engine, Full main dealer history, 6CD/radio, 18" alloys, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Climate control, ESP **£11995**

09 59 Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI S 5dr hatchback, silver with contrasting interior, A/C and electric windows, remote central locking, CD radio, 6 air bags, ABS and ESP, split rear seats, amazing fuel economy from this great diesel engine, save over £4000 from new..... **£12495**

09 09 Peugeot 308cc 1.6 THP 150cc, Black with contrasting interior, Electric folding roof, A/C, alloy's, computer, EW, ABS, remote central locking, only 7800 miles, over £21500 new..... **£17495**

10 59 Peugeot 407 2.0 HDI Sport Saloon, Silver with black half leather interior, full colour integrated sat nav, bluetooth, climate control, electric seats, electric windows and power folding mirrors, 6 airbags, abs and esp, cost new over £23000 amazing value at **£17495**

08 08 Honda CRV 2.2 DCi, gleaming black with contrasting interior. One owner from new and full service history. Many features including air con, electric windows, ABS, factory alloy wheels, detachable tow bar, front fogs plus lots more! beautiful condition..... **£17495**

07 07 Pathfinder 2.5DCI Aventura A fully equipped 7 seater, full leather upholstery with heated front seats, Sat Nav, 6 CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, Cruise Control, Climate Control, Electric Sunroof & mirrors, Intelligent key, alloys, ESP. **£18995**

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ALFA ROMEO

147, 1.6TS 5DR, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering trip computer front parking sensors quickclear windscreen, met red, 37051 miles, £3300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, JTDM Ducati corse, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 5396 miles, £14500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM SPORTWAGON LUSSO, 2008, air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, stromboli grey, 9532 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £16000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GT, 1.8ts cloverleaf, 2008, black metallic with grey leather, 28000 miles, £11950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

GT, JDTm, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 54000 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ASTON MARTIN

DB9, Volante V12, nk57eef, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, sports seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, brake assist, multiple airbags, quick-clear screen, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rain-sensing wipers, xenon headlamps, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, where will you find another at this great value. at big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, blue, 12001 miles, £79997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, FSI SPORT, 2003, abs brakes central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 39000 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi 170 QUATTRO, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey, 23009 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A5, COUPE SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser mp3 player power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation single cd player sports seats tinted glass traction control twin airbags xenon headlamps curtain airbags front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, white, 25000 miles, £27000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, FSI Quattro SE Tip Auto, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation, blue, 44500 miles, £13250, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

AZURE, Azure CONV AUTO SAT NAV, 25225188, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, brake assist, multiple airbags, quick-clear screen, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rain-sensing wipers, xenon headlamps, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, silverlake blue, 19373 miles, £119000, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

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Approximately 100 ~ 150 cars on offer, all makes and models.

General Car Auction for cars over £1000
Starts at 3.00pm
Approximately 100 ~ 150 cars on offer, all makes & models.

Commercial Vehicles
Starts at 4.00pm
Approximately 50 ~ 60 Commercial vehicles
we also hope to have some caravans & campers.

Notes for all of our Auctions
Although entries are accepted up to 7.00pm on Sunday 2nd May, we would strongly advise you, where possible, to book your vehicles in as early as possible, either by phone, email, or our new instant pre-booking service available on the internet to get maximum coverage.
Our website has over 1000 visits each day, and as well as a description of your vehicle, we can now include photographs. To book your vehicle in instantly on the internet, simply visit our website at www.hobbsparker.co.uk and click on "Car Auctions", then click on "Add Vehicle to Sale List".
As well as our usual opening times, we shall be open from 3.00pm to 7.00pm Sat 1st and Sun 2nd May to take entries. **Regrettably no entries will be accepted on the sale day. All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously.**

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BMW

1 SERIES, 118d Sport 5dr, mf07faj, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, sports seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 0 miles, £8987, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320i SE Auto, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation, green, 34155 miles, £13500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking, silver, 76698 miles, £7080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, MSport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, metallic black, 22000 miles, £26000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 630i sport convertible auto, 2006, grey metallic with beige leather sport seats, 61000 miles, £24950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 730d SE AUTO SAT NAV, mt08ztv, satellite navigation, full leather, xenon headlamps, headlamp jetwash, rain-sensing wipers, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, cd player, electric seats, electric handbrake, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 45410 miles, £22997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

8 SERIES, 840 ci sport coupe auto, 1997, silver metallic with grey leather sport seats, 121000 miles, £5850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

M3, M3 Coupe, full leather, harman kardon, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, sports seats, rain-sensing wipers, headlamp jetwash, xenon headlamps, bluetooth, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, radio, stereo, electric glass sunroof. at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, blue, 0 miles, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0 SE CONV, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 24997 miles, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 3.0v6 crd auto, 2006, midnight blue pearl metallic with dark slate grey, 36000 miles, £10950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CROSSFIRE, V6, 7578079, air conditioning, full leather, electric seats, heated seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, side air bags, abs, auto-dip rearview, cruise control, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, blue, 60100 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

GRAND VOYAGER, 7745079, air conditioning, climate control, power steering, full leather, head restraints, electric seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, privacy glass, parking sensor, centre armrest, multi-disc cd player, radio, twin air bags, curtain airbags, cruise control, traction control, abs, auto-dip rearview, powered folding mirrors, trip computer, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, roof rails, alloy wheels, stow & go, silver, 47200 miles, £11995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, gk51gwk, central locking remote central locking front electric windows electric windows passenger airbag drivers airbag power steering air conditioning immobiliser alarm half leather interior alloy wheels, nightfire red, 65000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

SEBRING, Limited Leather, ko08mxj, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, stability control, cruise control, multiple airbags, isofix, heated seats, height adjustable seat, electric seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, front fog lamps, powered folding mirrors, 18'' alloys, this car represents amazing value for an '08'plate diesel, with leather a/c cd and economy from its 2.0 litre diesel engine. you get a good family sized luxury car at a truly remarkable price. call us for a test drive before it's too late!, gloss black, 26000 miles, £7999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

DODGE

AVENGER, CRD SXT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 19000 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CALIBER, CRD SE, 2008, pearl inferno red crystal, 15700 miles, £7499, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FERRARI

575M MARANELLO, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control, black, 14500 miles, £54900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

F430, Spider, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows heated seats leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 5049 miles, £84900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, Pop, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, pasodoble red, 600 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2010, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, bossanova white, 1000 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 Dynamic, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags trip computer remote central locking, crossover black, 14299 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 DYNAMIC, 2007, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, metallic red, 16000 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 2.0TDCI TITANIUM 5DR, ef09yba, 2yrs roadside assistance, rear park assist, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, colour coding body, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, bluetooth with usb, privacy glass, quickclear heated screen, balance of 3 year warranty. smcone of the largest ford main dealer groups. with over 400 ford cars and commercials in stock today.all ford vehicles under three years old come with the balance of three years ford warranty and roadside assistance.low rate finance avai, silver, 8000 miles, £15995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, gn52lzp, insurance group 3 audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment history, moondust silver, 62000 miles, £4000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, ap58axn, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment history, moondust silver, 9000 miles, £9000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FOCUS, ZETEC CLIMATE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, sea grey, 14580 miles, £10580, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 ST170 5DR, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights full service history half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, met grey, 73999 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4ZETEC (CLIMATE), 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen, black, 46326 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 Style Climate, 2006, tonic, 25500 miles, £5995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags power steering, silver, 55 miles, £29100, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GALAXY, TDCI Zetec, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points roof bars remote audio controls, silver metallic, 46700 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, Ka 3dr, gn52wzp, immobiliser, power steering, air bag, head restraints, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 58000 miles, £2499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

KUGA, Titanium Tdci, 7820079, air conditioning, power steering, climate control, half leather, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, parking sensor, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, cd player, radio, rear headrests, auto-dip rearview, rain-sensing wipers, adjustable steering column, abs, cruise control, twin air bags, curtain airbags, trip computer, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 8500 miles, £19495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCi Zetec, 2008, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 16261 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 2.0 Zetec TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, panther black, 2160 miles, £19000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer panoramic sunroof front parking sensors remote central locking isofix child seat points multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, ink blue, 2915 miles, £20000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

STREETKA, 16v Hard/Softtop Winter Edition, full leather, remote central locking, power steering, air con, multi-disc cd player, factory hard top, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric front windows, abs, twin air bags, cd player, heated seats, colour coded body, 16'' alloys, car comes complete with factory colour coded detachable hard top which has a neat bag for summer storage. there is also a perspex wind deflector fitted to the car. surely an ideal summer car dont miss it!!, french blue metallic, 42000 miles, £5299, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TOURNEO, 9 SEAT TREND INC AIR CON PRE REG, 59, 115 ps, minibus, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, blue tooth hands free, only 1 remaining. 9 seater, grey, 50 miles, £17990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TOURNEO, TRANSIT 9 SEAT LIMITED PRE REG, 59, 140 ps, minibus, finance available, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, alloy wheels, blue tooth hands free. 9 seater, grey, 50 miles, £18990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 330 MWB MED ROOF TREND, 59, 115 ps, panel van, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, alloy wheels, air conditioning. blue, 50 miles, £17990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 automatic, remote central locking, power steering, full leather, cd player, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, head restraints, 15'' alloys, blue, 88000 miles, £3499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

S-TYPE, SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit climate control drivers airbag dvd electric windows full service history leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation front parking sensors remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) remote audio controls, indigo blue with barley leather, 63500 miles, £11490, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.2D SE, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 15000 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.0 D SE, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen roof bars remote audio controls, pacific blue, 83358 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XF, Premium Luxury, 2010, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation tinted glass, indigo blue, 14140 miles, £33000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XK, V8, 2010, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloyls automatic cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 59 miles, £60800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LOTUS

ELISE, S, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player, black, 11000 miles, £26000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ELISE, 1.8 S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights metallic paint leather interior power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 18247 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

EVORA, 3.5 V6 2 SPORTS PREMIUM TECH, 2010, liquid blue, 200 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 PERFORMANCE and TOURING PACK, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior split folding rear seats sports seats remote central locking, aspen white, 13000 miles, £30000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, Expression 16v 3dr, gk58owg, blue, 750 miles, £9495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

CLIO, Rip Curl, 07, 1 lady owner, low millage fsh (renault) low insurance group, immaculate, black, 21500 miles, £5995, Gardiner, 01304 611386 (PRIVATE)

ESPACE, 3.00, 2008, black, 55 miles, £27500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRAND ESPACE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 58700 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KOLEOS, 2.0 dCi DYNAMIQUE, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, blue, 4785 miles, £17000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KOLEOS, 2.0 dCi DYNAMIQUE, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, blue, 4785 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, Dynamique, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, red, 75000 miles, £2100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MEGANE, priviledge, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 71433 miles, £3700, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SCENIC, Dynamique, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 16800 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TWINGO, TCE GT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 14000 miles, £6711, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ROVER

25, Impression, 2003, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sun roof remote central locking, red metallic, 56000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

45, Impression S 3 5dr, lv03uen, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, privacy glass, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, alloy wheels, red, 43000 miles, £3495, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

CITYROVER, Style, 2004, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 35251 miles, £3500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

How all of it works

BUYING and adapting a car for a disabled driver can be expensive.

The Motability Scheme – run by the non-profit making independent organisation Motability – gives disabled people the opportunity to own or lease a car at an affordable price.

The scheme helps with leasing or buying a car if you receive the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Even if you don't drive, you can apply for a car as a passenger and propose two other people as your drivers.

You can also apply for a car on behalf of a child aged three or over, who is entitled to the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

There are several finance options available to you if you are looking to get a vehicle for a disabled driver:

• Contract hire – you can lease a new car from a Motability Accredited dealer for at least three years if you have 12 months or more of your Disability Living Allowance 'award' remaining. If your award is not renewed during the full length of your chosen scheme, your car will need to be returned. At the end of the period, the car is returned to Motability Operations.

• Ninety five per cent of Motability customers choose Contract Hire which offers:

A new car of their choice from more than 4,000 every three years

Insurance and personal accident cover

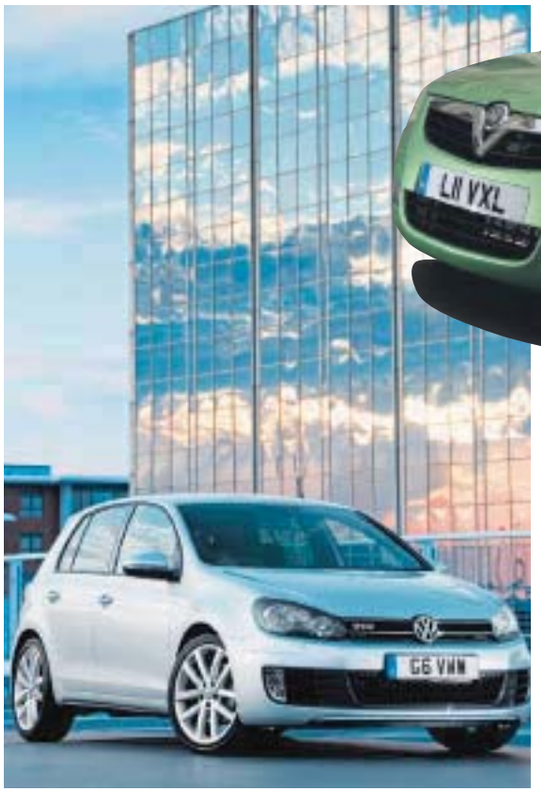
Servicing and maintenance

Full breakdown assistance from RAC

Free replacement tyres fitted by Kwik-Fit

Window or windscreen replacement at no extra cost.

• Hire purchase – enables you to buy the car you want and this can be a new or used car. You are responsible for negotiating the purchase price with the dealer and arranging and paying for comprehensive insurance, breakdown recovery, your car tax disc, servicing and repairs.



STYLE: Volkwagen's Golf mixes practicality with great style...

CHEAP: Vauxhall's Agila has the on-road footprint of a city car or supermini, but the cabin of small MPV – ideal for someone needing a cheap run-about with easy access

SPORTY: While the Mazda5 lives up to the Zoom Zoom brand's sporty image – and offers sliding doors and six decent seats and an occasional extra

Polo with Nil Advance Payment.*

15-inch alloys, 'Climatic' air conditioning, front fog lights, electric windows, multi-device interface, manual, petrol or diesel.

Golf S 1.6 TDI 5-door with £249 advance payment.†

'Climatic' semi-automatic air conditioning, driver's knee airbag, front electric windows, multi-function computer.

If you rely on Motability, rely on us for worry-free motoring.

Exchange your higher rate mobility allowance for a brand-new car and enjoy worry-free motoring for less than £55 a week. Brand-new car every three years, insurance and road tax, servicing, maintenance and repairs, breakdown cover.

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

For more information on eligibility call 0800 953 4002, or visit www.motability.co.uk

Motorline Volkswagen

Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3UY. Telephone: 01892 616212.
www.motorline.volkswagen.co.uk

*Available on Moda 1.2 5-door models and S 1.2 60 PS and 70 PS 5-door models with air conditioning, SE 1.2 60 PS and 70 PS, SE 1.4 85 PS and SE TDI 1.6 75 PS 5-door models. †Offer available on Golf S 1.6 TDI and Golf S 1.4 TSI 5-door models. Offers available until June 30th, 2010. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Volkswagen range: urban 60.1 (4.7) – 13.3 (21.2); extra urban 83.1 (3.4) – 26.9 (10.5); combined 74.3 (3.8) – 19.5 (14.5). CO_2 emissions 348 – 99g/km.

A JOY TO DRIVE: Vauxhall's seven-seat Zafira (below) and its popular Astra (left) along with the Mazda 3 have all proved to be popular choices for many Motability users

Adaptability help boosts scheme

APPLICATIONS for cars with adaptations on the Motability Scheme have soared over the last few years.

The rise followed changes to include the most popular adaptations within the Motability car lease at no extra cost; under previous arrangements the most popular adaptation, hand controls, would have cost more than £300.

Many other adaptations are available at more affordable levels. A Motability spokesman said: "Making the Motability Scheme more affordable for those who have the greatest mobility requirements is a major achievement.

"As well as better value adaptations, customers will find that a selection of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) are now available with no advance payment.

"This is a key part of a key drive to make the scheme more accessible for those who need adapted or 'drive from' wheelchair cars."

Increased dedicated training for dealers is also available; seminars for car dealers now include helping them manage requests for adaptations as part of everyday transactions.

The spokesman added: "The Motability Scheme now offers over 84 per cent of all adaptations required by our customers and these are available to order at the same time as choosing a new car.

"One easy process allows customers to receive their new car ready fitted with the required adaptations and there are no additional hold ups to getting on the road."

Further extensive adaptations are available at more affordable rates and manufacturer-fitted adaptations are an option when ordering a new car.

Independence with no strings attached

HYUNDAI Official Partner

Motability PREMIER PARTNER

Nil advance payment, and constant lease

The Hyundai range comes with impressive equipment levels and award-winning reputation. And for Motability customers, it's also available with nil advance payment and constant lease is available on all i10 models, all i20 models plus i30 5 door hatchback models. So even if your Motability allowance increases, your payments won't.

To discover more Motability offers call Canterbury Hyundai on 01227 783 300.

Hyundai i10
NIL Advance Payment* and from £43.25 per week
• Air conditioning • 14" Alloy wheels
• Six airbags and active front head restraints
• Remote central locking

Hyundai i30
NIL Advance Payment* and from £46.50 per week
• Air conditioning • Electronic Stability Programme (ESP)
• Six airbags and active front head restraints
• USB and AUX connections

Hyundai i20
NIL Advance Payment* and from £45 per week
• Air conditioning • Electronic Stability Programme (ESP)
• Six airbags and active front head restraints
• Electric windows

Quality thinking in every detail

HYUNDAI www.hyundai.co.uk

CANTERBURY HYUNDAI 01227 783 300 Vauxhall Road, Canterbury www.canterbury-hyundai.co.uk

Models featured: (1) Hyundai i10 1.2 Comfort 5dr in Continental Silver metallic paint with Nil advance payment and £43.25 per week. (2) Hyundai i20 1.2 Classic 5dr in Continental Silver metallic paint with Nil advance payment and £45 per week. (3) Hyundai i30 1.4 Classic 5 dr in Continental Silver metallic paint with Nil advance payment and £46.50 per week. *To qualify for these offers you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Motability Component or the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Motability Supplement. Offers only valid where the application to Motability occurs between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2010 and subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note that 20,000 miles per year are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Fuel consumption figures in MPG (l/100km) for the Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 5dr: Urban 44.1 (6.4), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 54.3 (5.2), CO_2 Emissions 124g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 Comfort 1.2 Manual: Urban 44.8 (6.3) Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 Emissions 119g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 5dr Hatchback: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2), Combined 46.3 (6.1). CO_2 Emissions 145g/km.

Motability can help fund needy cases

MOTABILITY can sometimes offer financial help towards the cost of a suitable car, adaptations, driving lessons or a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle.

Grants average nearly £20 million a year, helping some 5,000 customers with their mobility needs. There are several sources:

• Charitable Grants

Funding for charitable grants comes from Motability's fund-raising activities and the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust, to provide help towards:

1) Advance Payments on standard production cars.

2) Adaptations: such as hand controls, swivel seats, wheelchair hoists.

3) Driving Lessons: customers aged between 16 and 24, and in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component may be eligible for help towards the cost of driving lessons.

• Government Grants

Motability also administers funds on behalf of the Government for people who need a heavily adapted car, often a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle. There are three possible sources:

The Specialised Vehicles Fund: for people who need a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle, either as a driver or passenger.

War Pensioners: people receiving the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement and qualifying for a Motability car, may be eligible for a grant from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, based on medical records.

If this requires a vehicle or adaptations costing more than the standard grants available, an application can be made to Motability for help.

Ex-Invalid Vehicle Service Holders: Motability also deals with applications from customers who previously drove a three-wheeled, blue "trike", or other Government vehicle.

ROOMY: Three Motability contenders which are roomy yet compact and stylish: Daihatsu Materia (right) and the Hyundai i800 (above right); the VW Touran (above) delivers a more upmarket feel along with its obvious practicality

A city car full of features as standard...

SAVVY

Compact 5 door city car
1.2 litre engine
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Front fog lamps
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Motability

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* Price shown is for Savvy 1.2 Style MT; manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic which is an option at £320. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. ± Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance to manufacturer's schedules. Terms and conditions apply.

PROTON

Great Vauxhall Diesels.

Great Diesel Range
Nil Advance Payment
FREE Parking Sensors

All New Astra 5-dr Hatchback Exclusiv 1.7CDTi 16v (110PS) diesel **62.8mpg***

Insignia 5-dr Hatchback Exclusiv 2.0CDTi 16v (130PS) diesel **48.7mpg***

With Nil Advance Payment on the models shown, plus FREE Parking Sensors on all Vauxhall cars on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme, there has never been a better time to choose Vauxhall.

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

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www.pomphreys.co.uk
London Road
Bapchild
Sittingbourne
ME9 9AQ

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 16.6 (17.0) - 61.4 (4.6), extra-urban 32.8 (8.6) - 88.3 (3.2), combined 24.2 (11.7) - 76.3 (3.7), CO_2 Emissions 274 - 98 g/km.

Under the Motability Contract Hire Scheme for new cars, a driver can get the use of a brand new version of one of the following cars at Nil Advance Payment (optional metallic or pearlescent paint is available free of charge to Motability customers): all-new Astra Exclusiv 1.7CDTi 16v (110PS) (£18,285 OTR, as shown with optional 17-inch alloy wheels, total £18,595 OTR); Insignia Hatchback Exclusiv 2.0CDTi 16v (130PS) (£20,365 OTR, as shown with optional Plus Pack – 18-inch alloy wheels and front fog lights – and Intelligent Adaptive Forward Lighting, total £21,670 OTR). The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. Offer ends 30 June 2010. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Offer valid from 1 April 2010 – 30 June 2010. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, which will be taken in lieu of the monthly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. (Vaux91972)

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

REMEMBER when the word 'sale' really meant cut-price bargains that could persuade shoppers to queue overnight?

Well, they saw something like it at Lenleys furniture store in Canterbury this week – see our story and video link inside – but that's about our only nod to the past, as we look ahead to new technology in business and putting the recession behind us.

There's still an election on May 6 to get past first though – more inside.

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Ticket site takes on giant in £6bn battle

IN A classic David and Goliath contest, a small Tunbridge Wells-based web agency has launched a rival to established online rail ticketing website thetrainline.com, ***writes Steve Loader***.

MyTrainTicket.co.uk says it is out to crack thetrainline's virtual market monopoly and also raise UK online sales of rail tickets.

Of an overall rail ticket market worth more than £6 billion, only 15 per cent is sold online against 50 per cent in the rival airline market.

MyTrainTicket.co.uk – the brainchild of the award-winning Assertis agency in Tunbridge Wells – aims to change the face of the market with a mixture of technology and alliance with a company that seems, at first glance, an enemy of the railways – Airmiles.

ROBIN WELLS: Challenge

Under this ground-breaking and exclusive partnership, rail travellers can now collect one Airmile for every £10 spent – a big incentive for regular users, commuters and the leisure sector. They can also save up to 80 per cent on their ticket anyway by booking in advance rather than at the station on the day.

Assertis is a privately-owned specialist in web design and marketing and has had experience with online and mobile train ticketing since April, 2008, with clients Wrexham and Shropshire Railways, and Chiltern Railways.

It says the mobile and self-print tickets, incorporating barcodes, have been a hit with passengers and train operators alike.

Assertis believes that MyTrainTicket.co.uk's exclusive Airmiles offering, combined with passenger-friendly innovations on its site can change the face of a potentially huge market.

MyTrainTicket.co.uk executive chairman Robin Wells said: "Passengers appreciate the value of competition and we believe our innovative partnership with Airmiles will encourage more people to book online and to travel by train, helping to reduce traffic on the roads.

"Our booking experience is far better than anything that already exists and will help grow the market."

MyTrainTicket.co.uk simplifies ticket buying with 'one-click' access to the best fares by price as well as route, showing all available Advance, Off Peak and Anytime fares on one page.

It has also removed a well-known passenger irritant – the website shows clearly where two singles are cheaper than a return.

Other innovations include the ability to add a Plusbus ticket – giving unlimited bus and tram travel within the urban area of your destination – for over 275 towns and cities in the country.

This means business and leisure passengers can now reduce their carbon footprint further, and save money, by not having to jump in a taxi for the final mile. Further enhancements are promised soon, such as more information on station facilities to help passengers with specific needs, such as the elderly and those with disabilities.

Airmiles director Andrea Burchett said: "We know our members love to travel and use trains on a regular basis. This new partnership with MyTrainTicket.co.uk represents a great opportunity to collect Airmiles as they book their train travel to use on future travel and leisure rewards that we offer."

The rewards include everything from online shopping with partner brands and stores, hotels, tour operators, car hire, days out to places such as Legoland and Alton Towers, and even English Heritage annual passes.

Mr Wells said: "Our positive dialogue with the train operating companies suggests the future looks bright for major technological advances in online ticketing."

Easter bonus

SHOPPERS at a major Kent centre ignored bad weather and pre-election jitters to deliver buoyant Easter trading, according to new figures.

Ashford Designer Outlet reported sales across its 80 stores rose more than 14 per cent over the Easter weekend, with footfall up nearly six per cent, compared with the same period last year.

Perhaps surprisingly so soon after a recession, shoppers also targeted designer brands, with sales rising 58 per cent, while casual wear rose 44 per cent. Popular spring items included tea dresses, strappy sandals, handbags and swimwear.

Recession-hardened firms show their steel

NEW figures show Kent and neighbouring areas are spearheading a steely resolve by firms to deflect any last blows from the recession.

Statistics from the Equifax Business Failures Report for the first quarter of 2010 show business failures in London and the South East were down year on year and also better than the last quarter of 2009, when the country showed its first feeble signs of emerging from the downturn.

Equifax spokesman Nic Beishon admitted that this year's fall against late 2009 was still very small – just half a percentage point – but could be an important sign that companies are managing their operations better, from cost cutting to improved collections.

He said: "While this number is small in itself I believe it is an encouraging sign of a turnaround in fortunes for the economy as a whole, although clearly there is still much to do to put real confidence back into commerce."

Kent and neighbouring counties have also been faring better than London, where there was a year-on-year drop in failures of 4.8 per cent in the first quarter and a small 0.3 per cent increase against the final quarter of 2009.

For Kent and other South East counties though, the year-on-year decline was 15.2 per cent and a healthy 4.8 per cent drop in early 2010 against the last three months of 2009.

"There is no getting away from the fact that the economy is still incredibly fragile," said Mr Beishon, "but these latest figures do give some hope that businesses are fighting hard to come out of the recession alive and kicking.

"Businesses and trade bodies all across the UK should take heart from these latest figures, but need to be mindful that it's still early days to be believing this is a clear trend, especially while the economy remains fragile as we await the outcome of the General Election.

"Businesses must continue to take precautions to protect themselves from some of the risks of the difficult trading conditions.

"They need to continue to use rigorous credit checks, alongside ongoing monitoring of the financial status of customers and suppliers."

Welcome ...

... to the first edition of Business Week – a fresh approach to business coverage in our series of weekend newspapers published for the county.

The very title of the new-look section underlines the edge we have through offering Kent business news and advice within a bright and readable weekly format.

But it also dovetails with exciting new media, to give you up-to-the-minute information on new developments via our website businessforkent.co.uk, where you will also be able to subscribe to our new business e-bulletin out every Tuesday. As ever with KOS Media's award-winning newspapers, you can also read Business Week online – click on the Saturday or Sunday e-editions at wwwkentnews.co.uk. While you're at the site, you might like to download our excellent App for the iPhone so that you can read KOS Media titles and business easily online anywhere.

We are also committed to exploring the latest new media such as Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook for yet more delivery of business news; you will find much more about these fast-growing outlets within the next few pages.

For a start, guest contributor Nick Towers of Sagittarius Digital looks at May 6 and what is likely to be dubbed the first Digital General Election, with clues on how the new media and technology may be increasingly used by far-sighted businesses.

In our new feature, The Big Interview, we also speak with a vastly-experienced Kent businessman with a reputation for forward-thinking, Arvid Jayal, who looks into the future of IT.

He also puts a positive spin on the aftermath of the recession, which he sees as a big opportunity for those who embrace new technology and, as he puts, don't simply sit crying into their beer.

And there are real signs of an upturn; inward investment guru Paul Wookey, the chief executive of Locate in Kent, tells us that London commercial property is on the up again and the ripples are starting to hit Kent.

It's an exciting time to be launching Business Week.

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

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*Source: AXA Business Continuity Guide for Small Businesses

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We've never had it so good – digitally

IT HAS been hailed by the press as the first 'digital election', where battles will be won and lost through digital marketing channels, ***writes Nick Towers of Sagittarius Digital***.

It will also show British businesses how they can use this new media to get their messages and marketing across to current and potential customers – especially as they seek a cost-effective, post-recession edge in their market place.

Digital marketing was highly effective for Barack Obama during last year's race for the White House.

Mr Obama's tactical use of email, mobile SMS, and social networking sites was streets ahead of his rivals.

And UK political parties are following suit. David Cameron's Twittering is gathering momentum and the use of Twitter and social networking sites like Facebook generally has engaged a younger, tech-savvy audience.

Both major parties are using email as a way at maintaining constant dialogue with supporters. The Conservatives are reported to have bought more than 1,500 key phrases for Google AdWords advertising.

In the USA, one of Mr Obama's strategies was to ensure the right message was delivered at the right time, through the right digital channel. His use of mobiles allowed communication with his database of over one million mobile numbers right up to the moment they walked into the voting booths.

And Facebook, which overtook Google for the first time as the most visited site in the USA, in March, 2010, is now acknowledged as the key channel to engaging a younger audience.

But there are signs that Britain is waking up to the new force. Democracy UK has posted an App for downloading voter registration forms and is following up with a Facebook ad campaign, targeting 18 to 24-year-olds.

Research also shows that up to half of those aged 18 to 25 have become more interested in the election through online political activity. This change in voter demographics could have major implications and perhaps lead to a 'Cool Britannia' brand of younger, more connected politics and politicking.

With online intelligence service HitWise UK reporting that the 2010 Budget saw voters respond significantly through financial and business websites, the message to the parties is clear: the internet will be a voice of the people. What else can the parties try digitally?

NICK TOWERS: The dawn of digital democracy

Better mobile communications – with voters signing up for emails, only the Tories have asked for a mobile number to receive free text alerts but, as I said earlier, mobile comms was a winner for Mr Obama.

More viral activity – the Tories have been the butt of a low-cost Labour digital viral campaign featuring 'airbrushed' David Cameron posters.

Integrated campaigns – current digital activity tends to be fragmented. Better links from offline to online and across digital channels would increase longer-term engagement.

This could include digital TV's red button and Bluetooth broadcasting around key outdoor media sites.

Google Calendar can keep supporters/customers up to date with key events, seamlessly integrating with users' mobile and computer calendars.

However, though the parties use the new channels, they still tend to pump out old campaign messages. The Tories' iPhone App is just another party line carrier; interesting, but not necessarily engaging. A better use of such media is augmented reality and/or gaming mechanics, creating something interactive and fun.

As a voting population, one thing is certain – borrowing from Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's 1957 speech – we've never had it so good in terms of being able to openly discuss the issues of the day.

The party that listens effectively is likely to be the one we see celebrating come May 6.

• ***Nick Towers is director of Digital at Folkestone-based Sagittarius Digital, part of Sagittarius Marketing. www.sagittarius-digital.com.***

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

MICHELIN-listed chef Scott Goss has opened The Gallery restaurant, with celebrity chef Mark Sargeant, at North West Kent College in Gravesend.

It has been hailed as a new dining and business concept: quality food at reasonable prices, and prepared, cooked and served by the hospitality and catering students of the college itself.

The idea is to offers students the chance to work in a professional restaurant environment at college. Mr Goss, who recently appeared on Gordon Ramsay's F Word TV show, runs the highly regarded Swan restaurant in West Malling where some North West Kent College students go on work placements.

GROUNDED air services during the Icelandic volcanic eruption illustrate that companies must have contingency plans for unforeseen events, says Virgin Media Business.

Virgin's Alistair McKinnon said the effects on project deadlines and productivity can be considerable, adding: "This can often be avoided, by employing tools such as video-conferencing, teleconferencing and desktop sharing, which allow workers to meet up 'virtually'.

"Workers stranded in airports could even continue to work, by securely connecting to a virtual private network over wi-fi.

"Companies that already use these tools will be aware of the cost and time savings. Reductions can be made in the time staff spend travelling and the cost of flights and rail tickets can also be cut.

"All businesses face unexpected disruption from time to time, yet while it may be impossible to predict the next big event, that doesn't mean that you can't prepare in advance."

METCALFE Stanley Hicks, the Hadlow-based chartered building surveyors, has joined with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce to host a networking evening in aid of Hospice in the Weald.

The hospice is marking its 30th anniversary and is Metcalfe Stanley Hicks' chosen charity for 2010.

For places at the event, on Thursday, May 20, from 6-8pm, at The Old Engine House, Cemetery Lane, Hadlow, email Maxine@kentinvictachamber.co.uk.

BUSINESSES are squandering millions of litres of petrol because employees don't drive company vehicles efficiently.

Research by telematics firm Trimble MRM showed that poor driving technique, inaccurate fuel gauges and bad record keeping all contribute to companies being unaware of fuel waste – a problem exacerbated by recent hikes in petrol and diesel prices.

Trimble says driver feedback technology can make an average commercial vehicle up to 15 per cent more efficient.

A spokesman said: "Guesses on fuel card and mileage logs are at best problematic and open to mistakes or abuse.

"It's not about being 'Big Brother' and it's not about penalising workers who drive for their jobs – far from it. It's about helping increase productivity in a costly environment."

HOUSE-builders may be facing the toughest market in years, but 17 local builders are celebrating being commended in the NHBC's Health and Safety Awards.

NHBC – the standard-setter and consumer protection body for new UK homes – launched the awards last year.

Spokesman Simon Mantle, said: "As the industry emerges from a difficult period, now is the perfect time to recognise site managers who have maintained exceptional health and safety standards.

"Emergence from a recession is often coupled with a rise in the number of accidents on-site. These awards will play an important role in encouraging best practice and driving forward health and safety standards."

The winners will be announced during a national award ceremony in Birmingham on Friday, May 21.

Queen's Award tonic boosts star exporter

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

CRITICAL work in the battle against cancer and heart disease has helped a Sittingbourne firm to a coveted Queen's Award for Enterprise.

The SCIPAC biotech company, founded in 1985 and employing some 60 staff, supplies medical products for the accurate diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of more than 300 conditions.

Stephane Argivier

These include critical protein 'markers' of diseases, indicating the presence of a condition – key components in diagnostic kits used to test blood samples and provide vital prognosis and a course of treatment.

Some identify illnesses such as cancer, cardiac disease and rheumatoid arthritis, making accurate diagnosis earlier, enabling best treatment sooner and giving the patient the best chance of a successful outcome.

The Queen's Award has been made for two categories: Innovation (for commercially successful and innovative products or services); and International Trade (recognising an outstanding or continuous achievement in overseas earnings).

SCIPAC's MD Stephane Argivier said: "We are honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Enterprise in two different categories as tangible recognition of the company's achievements.

"It is also a salute to our Kent work force, who have contributed to our success and this award, as well as demonstrating how this county can foster great businesses."

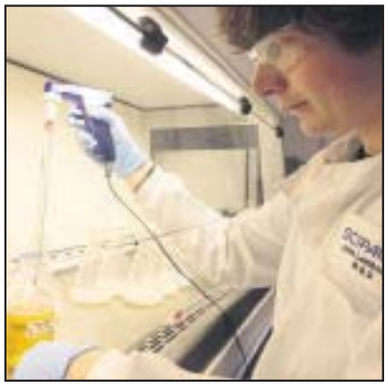
Company representatives will attend a reception at Buckingham Palace in July, when they will meet the Queen and the Minister of State for Trade and Industry.

A royal envoy will then visit the company and its staff later this year to present the award – a crystal bowl.

The company can also use the Queen's Award emblem for advertising, marketing and packaging for five years, as a symbol of quality and success.

SCIPAC has bucked the economic downturn, boosting productivity and turnover to more than £5 million a year and also growing market share, now averaging of 23 per cent annually for the past three years.

An expanded product range and the new SunnyLab division, catering for the academic research market, have fuelled the growth along with export sales doubling between 2006 and 2009 to account for 90 per cent of production.


HEALTH BENEFITS: In the SCIPAC lab

SCIPAC now exports to more than 30 countries with 60 per cent going to the United States of America.

The company says the key to these positives at a time of re-trenchment in the UK economy has been ultra-modern facilities, a dedicated customer services team and shipping department to service international clients, and a quality team reviewing all systems, procedures and standards.

END PRODUCT: Medical supplies from SCIPAC

Monopoly game ends with Nisa little earner

THE CO-OP's £1.57 billion acquisition of the rival Somerfield supermarket chain in 2008 prompted the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) to decree that the former must dispose of 144 stores.

One of the awkward locations where Co-op could not be allowed to have a monopoly was central Gillingham, where a former Somerfield store in High Street has now re-opened as a Nisa Extra.

It follows a deal – for an undisclosed sum and brokered by Christie and Co – for the 10,000 sq ft store to be taken over by Raj Raichura, who becomes one of the few independent retailers to meet MMC approval for such a change.

Mr Raichura already operated a Nisa Local store in Essex and was able to satisfy the MMC that he had the market knowledge, capacity and support to compete and survive against an established Co-op just a mile away.

Mr Raichura said: "This shop, which we have already refitted, is an exciting opportunity and I would like to thank Christie and Co in helping me with its acquisition."

• LOCAL convenience store chain Kentmart has expanded to eight outlets with the freehold acquisition of a Costcutter at Leysdown-on-Sea, Sheppey.

The 1,200sq ft convenience store with private three-bedroom accommodation across the first and second floors is claimed to be one of the busiest independently run convenience stores in Kent during the summer months. The deal, for an undisclosed sum, was also handled by Christie and Co.

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Ben Bradford, MBA

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'My Business Week …'

by KOS Media commercial director Christine Davidson

MONDAY – early KOS Media strategy meeting. Question: do I really like breakfast meetings – particularly on a Monday? No.

Then, with Business Week advertising manager Clifford, ring round to existing and potential customers before closing bookings for our first ever Business Week.

PM: activate recruitment team to finalise copy and bookings for the KOS Media midweek Yourlocal papers' jobs section.

TUESDAY – meeting with KOS business editor Steve Loader and the production team to finalise our debut edition of Business Week.

Can't wait to see how the new printed product looks after months of planning. What's lunch? Maybe I can investigate that concept next week?

PM: presentation with Clifford to a national brand and their agency. Asked to create a tailored partnership package. Back to the office to finalise Business Week visuals.

WEDNESDAY – wearing my recruitment/jobsforkent hat I look through our jobs website and Twitter response stats, looking good.

PM: meeting with a potential client who wants to explore recruitment advertising options to save money on current spend. Offered the annual deal, saving them 30 per cent off current spend – very happy customer.

Race across the county to another Business Week prospect; the e-Bulletin option was a big hit and we discussed a cost-effective package allowing them to attach part of their own newsletter to ours. They like the multimedia offering. At the office now to look at photos taken on Jason's (our development director) phone of the stand for Kent 2020 while tasting the give-away mints.

THURSDAY – all day at Kent 2020 Vision. A major chance to network.

A special day too for my team as we launch Business Week and its multimedia package with a stand at the show and do a lot of mingling. Business editor Steve and Clifford go walkabout, talking about stories and business strategies and making some good contacts.

Quite a few raised eyebrows at the range of options to access Kent business news. Nearly ran out of business cards... and need a new pair of feet. Business TV was a hit, too!

FRIDAY – I picked up lots of messages, business cards and emails yesterday, but a return to the desk after the day at 2020 highlights a whole lot more.

I know we all ask this but why do people feel the need to email and then leave a voicemail asking: "I've just emailed you ....."

Hey, wait up, the same person has just sent a follow-up email: "Did you get my messages?"

I need a lie down ... oh, what?

Another meeting ... fantastic.

Web calls the tune on Arvid's new frontier

Arvid Jayal has a lifetime of cutting-edge media experience and a passion for where the new frontier is leading us now. And as CEO of consulting firm Westling and a top executive with Time Warner Publishing, a division of leading media and entertainment conglomerate Time Warner, he also has a good vantage point. Business editor STEVE LOADER asked the Kent-based expert to select the media icons showing most promise and share his top business tips

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK THE BIG INTERVIEW

FEW people can put hand on heart and say: "I know exactly where the web will be in a few years' time," but the best-run businesses are looking at everything with an open mind, says Arvid Jayal.

And as business development director for Time Warner Publishing, with experience across many industry sectors, he believes this approach is the make or break of any business.

"Some are only just waking up to it though," he added. "I recently had a meeting with a traditional company and they said, 'Oh, we've always thought about the internet but never really understood it, but now it's about survival' – it's almost too late.

"And it has all happened so fast – look at Google's growth – and still happening. I heard a brilliant description of how the web was changing the business landscape.

"Up to now, it has been like working on land – seeing the trees, the rocks, the mountains and being familiar with them– but now the online dimension is like entering the ocean.

"You have a basic understanding of it, but you don't know exactly what you'll find as you go deeper and there is a lot to learn about the threats and opportunities in this exciting but new environment."

It underlines Arvid's lifelong passion for technology, though he also has a first and enduring love for music.

He grew up in Hampstead, London, but moved to Beckenham after meeting his wife, Jo. The couple have a son, Jonathan.

Classically-trained and with a degree in music, with eclectic tastes leaning mostly towards jazz-fusion, Arvid plays flute, guitar and saxophone and originally worked as a professional musician. Yet another interest in production and broadcasting led to Scottish TV and his first job.

What follows is a fascinating CV involving print and radio advertising, music production, major exhibitions and shows, publishing, IT and business start-ups.

Now aged 56 and still regularly riding his beloved motorcycle, he has also found time to be a photographer, form a new film and multimedia production company and, above all, still relishes a fresh challenge.

"I've had the privilege to work for some very good

Arvid Jayal's CV

- 1976-83 Scottish TV – sales manager
- 1983-87 The Guardian – display group head
- 1987-89 News on Sunday – group advertising manager. Ill-fated newspaper start-up masterminded by campaigning journalist John Pilger
- 1989 founded production company Music Shed, involved in the launch of radio stations including Jazz FM, building a radio advertising production business for 200 clients (Music Shed is now absorbed into Westling)
- 1993-96 Miller-Freeman – group events director responsible for all events in the engineering sector dealing with major exhibitions
- 1996-99 Reed Exhibitions – global industry director responsible for the largest and most influential hospitality events in the world

1999-2001 Centaur Publishing – group publishing and events director

2001 Founded Westling, offering consultancy, business development, online strategy, marketing, audio-visual production, IT and events.

2004 to present: Time Warner Publishing – business development director with responsibility for business development, strategy, business acquisition and marketing

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companies and with innovative and visionary colleagues. Most of these opportunities have occurred by chance, as I have never had to formally apply for a job.

"This has exposed me to new ideas and opportunities, enabling me to gather a lot of experience and expertise that has stood me in good stead in business."

Surveying the wreckage of the post-recession UK economy, he takes a typically buoyant line: "There are always opportunities, and recession is a great opportunity to take stock.

"People tend to get blasé when things go well and stick with what they know, rather than looking at what they can do in a different way to meet the new challenge.

"I find it hard to listen to people crying into their beer and not doing something about it. Optimism, within reason, can make things happen."

Consolidate

Referring to his own company Westling – set up some years ago and running alongside his interim post with Time Warner Publishing – he sees a lot of consultancy work available because companies are consolidating, either seeking outside help to restructure or outsourcing work.

But he says the key to emerging from recession is forward-thinking, deploying technology to open up a lead over their rivals.

He still has to fly to locations for Time Warner Publishing and for Westling and we caught up with him while grounded by the Iceland volcanic eruption, but even he admits to astonishment at what he can achieve by hooking up with colleagues 'virtually' through cloud computing networks and innovations such as Drop Box – an infrastructure that allows him and colleagues to maintain a virtual office, sharing files and collaborating even via iPhone.

And he is a huge fan of the iPhone and its convergence of communication by phone or email, internet, music and a wide range of innovative Apps, though yet to be convinced by Apple's larger and forthcoming iPad.

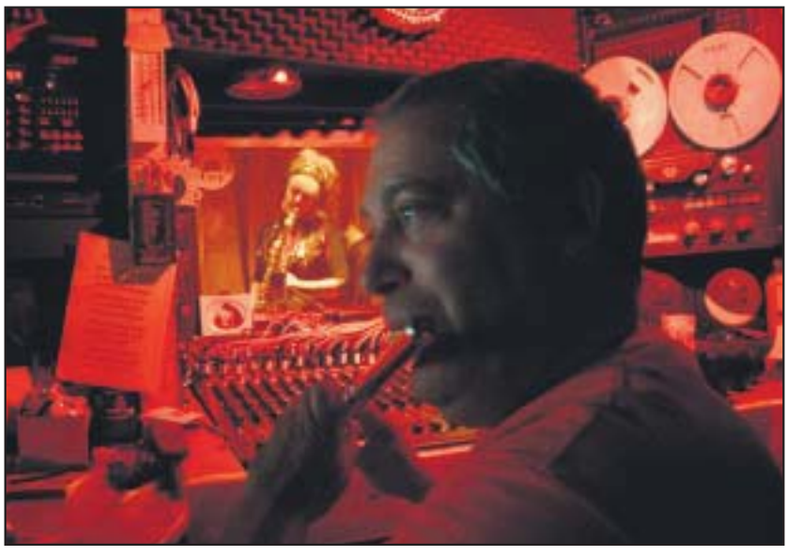
But he believes the most exciting business development is social media via sites such as Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn: "It is breaking down the old business barriers and straitjacketed thinking of the manager and his small team and opening up to a much wider world," he said.

But he is worried that this brave new world is threatened by fearful and sometimes overzealous corporates locking down their computer systems for understandable security reasons but resulting in the prevention of free and speedy flows of information.

This is the essence of his latest private venture, Imagin8iv, an offshoot of Westling and designed to tap into the new trend towards high online e-learning and training driven by high quality 'rich media'.

Meanwhile, he is still energised by his own business and his wide ranging role at Time Warner Publishing: "Again, I was approached by an executive search company for this role, but given a blank sheet to develop a new corporate identity and business acquisition strategy, and it has been fascinating – one of the most enjoyable assignments I've ever had.

"Apart from being great fun working with a great team on an international level, I have just enjoyed deploying all the skills I have acquired over my career and acquiring new ones, such as global logistics and distribution along the way."



IN THE STUDIO: Music is an enduring obsession for multi-instrumentalist Arvid Jayal

ARVID'S TOP TIPS

- Ignore the internet and IT at your peril – everyone in business must seek to stay abreast of new developments – you may find it liberating
- Recession is a time to take stock – use it to emerge stronger and fitter
- Optimism makes things happen
- Listen and learn – making sure you have grasped all the facts means you can then interject with authority

To see this, search 'iPhone' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Apple's iPhone is fast becoming an indispensable business tool. You can use yours in two ways to stay abreast of Kent business via Business Week and its associated media, either by going direct to www.businessforkent.co.uk; or reading the Business Week e-edition via our iPhone App, downloadable from our website at www.kentnews.co.uk

Eruption and food security

TRAVELLERS stranded by the eruption of the Icelandic volcano have grabbed the headlines, *writes Pat Crawford of Hadlow College*.

But beyond the passenger chaos from aircraft grounded by volcanic ash spewing into UK and European air space, relatively little is being reported about the effects on freight services, particularly the vast amounts of fresh produce imported by air.

Figures from the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) show we imported 41 per cent of our vegetables and 88 per cent of our fruit in 2009. Much of the more valuable produce is flown in, some from as far as Asia and East Africa. How long before some of this produce is in short supply?

Long before this latest threat, government agencies were increasingly concerned about the UK's ability to ensure food security. Farmers and growers were being exhorted to produce more food.

This new threat puts the situation into a different perspective and Charles Tassell, county chairman of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), believes it is a much-needed wake-up call.

He said: "We have become too dependant on imported foodstuffs. UK production is insufficient to cover emergencies of this type.

"Britain has some of the best farmers in the world and we are capable of producing a lot more food. We need to raise production now and future-proof food security."

Mr Tassell, who is an ex-Hadlow College student and farms at Ulcombe, near Maidstone, added: "Seasonality has been forgotten and the youngest generation of cooks have little awareness of what it means.

"We need to become more self-sufficient all-year-round and this has to involve understanding what can be grown in this country and when and how to use it.'

Hadlow's finance director Mark Lumsdon-Taylor sees another potential problem: "For a variety of reasons, farming was in decline for years and the industry recruited few new entrants.

"The outlook for most farming sectors is now much brighter. Consequently, the industry requires more graduates and highly-trained and skilled entrants."

The silver lining to this particular cloud of volcanic dust must be the recognition that a buoyant and successful farming industry is fundamental to our food security.

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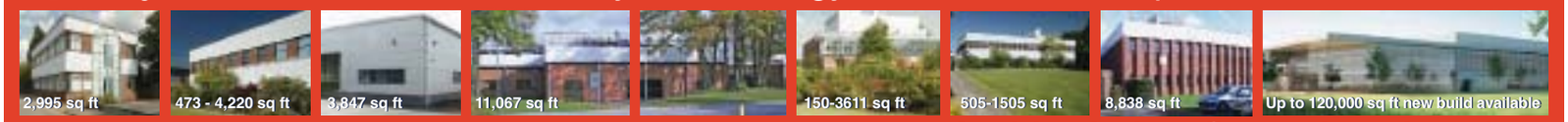

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BUSINESS WEEK

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Awaiting capital's ripple of recovery

Locate in Kent is the investment promotion agency for Kent and Medway, funded by Kent County Council, the South East England Development Agency, Medway Council, district councils and the Kent Developers' Group – a partnership of commercial property developers from the private sector.

Since 1997 it has helped more than 500 companies to locate or expand in Kent, creating 23,000 jobs. Its latest annual results will be presented in June, but Business Week asked for some early thoughts on a challenging year and the way ahead

THE chief executive at Locate in Kent, Paul Wookey, has a short message for London commercial property agents, ***writes KOS Media business editor Steve Loader***.

It is: "We are not remote, we are not peripheral," but is resigned to the fact that he will probably make himself hoarse and in vain. Nevertheless, he sees signs that demand for London office space is starting to outstrip supply as the economy puts the recession behind it – good news for Kent.

PAUL WOOKEY

"London is the only place for some companies, especially bigger corporates, but some companies do want to save about 50 per cent on their office overheads and move to Kent – gaining a better quality of life for their staff, too."

The pace of the turnaround in the capital, though, has raised concerns for Locate in Kent (LiK) as director of marketing and research Mandy Bearne pointed out: "During the recession, developers stopped building speculative ventures – very few companies build their own business premises – and Kent could soon start to run out of commercial space.

"Investment funds are looking for opportunities though and Kent is on their radar, but banks are still reticent generally, although one or two are taking a slightly more enlightened view."

The other major barrier to investment is the UK's sluggish planning system, though LiK's council and developer parents were said to be working to unlock this.

On balance though, Mr Wookey reckons the county's ability to attract new investment and the fact companies held up well in the recession, means it is better placed than before. Though he warned it could be another couple of years before the county is back to some sort of normality.

Kent's profile and image before the downturn had been changed significantly by the new HS1 high-speed rail link he said, and he predicted more fast bus networks linking new developments such as those at Dartford and Ashford.

"The infrastructure of the county is much better balanced than before the recession," he said. "What you would have seen three to five years ago was the pick of investment going into mid Kent and north Kent. The picture now is investment going into all parts of the county."

However, he warned of complacency in some areas, which seemed to escape the worst of the recession but seeing a nudge upwards in unemployment trends.

"West Kent, for instance, needs to recognise it must compete just as aggressively as east Kent – but it is part of our job to tell people these things."

Perhaps surprisingly, he seems less worried by bigger players in the inward investment game elsewhere in the country, such as the North and Scotland, which can call upon big grants for big, headline-grabbing employment projects.

"Dover and Thanet still qualify for Tier 2 grant aid, so we can afford as good a support as many of our more obvious rivals," Mr Wookey said.

"But what we don't want to do is sell Kent on the back of incentives. It has to be justified on a year-on-year basis – more sustainable.

"We tend to play down our grant availability, but may use it if it helps sway a project."

The LiK pitch was more about good and improving communications – nationally and internationally – quality of life and flexibility, he added.

"NatWest have helped my T-shirt printing business go from medium to large"

Andrew Hodgson, Managing Director of Advartex

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How a sale should be done

AT A TIME when signs proclaiming 'Sale!' are everywhere on the high street, scepticism tends to walk through the door before the customers do, writes Julie Maddocks.

But the three-day sale held by Canterbury's Lenleys furniture store turned the clock back to a time when that four-letter word really meant something.

Billed as the 'Great £1 million refurbishment sale', the first day saw more than 5,000 people queuing round the block and causing traffic chaos in and around the cathedral city's Westgate area.

It showed how far shoppers were prepared to go – or queue – to bag a bargain and Lenleys MD Jonathan Watts admitted it was no ordinary sale.

He said: "The sale is different in that we really do need to clear our stock."

So a 'selling out the bare walls' advertisement drawn up for the event was a fair description as the 75-year-old 'institution' prepares for a £1 million refurbishment next month.

Lenleys, founded in 1936 by school friends Len Watts and Stanley Adsett, moved from the city's Buttermarket to its current location in 1983 and the exterior of the building served the company well for 27 years, but Jonathan Watts said the Roper Road showroom was in desperate need of a facelift.

"We're aware it's not up to the mark," he said, "so we're renovating and modernising it and we want to show our customers our best.

"For the past few years, we've been very good inside the store, but externally it's not been great."

To view, search 'Lenleys' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks reports from the 'Great £1 million refurbishment sale' at Lenleys furniture store in Roper Road, Canterbury

Asked why the firm was such a Kent commercial icon and able to attract crowds of customers to its sale, Mr Watts said: "It is difficult to compete, particularly when you can buy in such volume from China, but what sets Lenleys apart is that we're unique.

"We're independent and so, whatever customers see here, they're not going to see this range of products anywhere else in the UK."

Marsh's wealth of experience

INSURANCE broker and risk adviser Marsh is expanding its Maidstone operations to meet demand for its services in the South East.

The firm has enjoyed a growth spurt over the last year and appointed Steve Adams and John Bellingan, both previously with Willis in Maidstone, to drive business development strategy and client servicing.

They will report to Maidstone office head Jas Ram. Mr Adams has worked in insurance for more than 30 years as a broker and underwriter, and was an account director for Willis.

Mr Bellingan was previously Willis's commercial business developer and has worked in insurance for more than 13 years.

In addition, Kym Ongley has been promoted to client executive.

Mr Ram said: "Enhancing our team in Maidstone is key to sustaining our ambitious growth strategy and helping clients to manage through the recession. I am delighted to welcome Steve and John to the team."

ON THE TEAM: From left – Jas Ram, Kym Ongley, Steve Adams and John Bellingan

Late payment mountain

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

NEW research shows late payment is clobbering the efforts of smaller businesses in Kent and the South East as they try to claw away from the recession.

While larger companies have a higher value of invoices paid late, as a proportion of turnover smaller businesses are still worst hit.

The findings from NatWest and RBS show 71 per cent of SMEs (small to medium-sized enterprises) in the region have suffered over the past year and wasted valuable resources chasing their money or even gone bust.

Another survey by the Association of Accountancy Technicians (AAT) names and shames bad payers – with estate agents the worst by far.

The NatWest/RBS survey shows the most vulnerable businesses – smaller ones with an annual turnover of between £250,000 and £500,000 – are hit by late payers compared with just seven per cent of medium and large firms.

Despite this though, just 45 per cent of SMEs have taken steps to improve cash flow and, of these, 11 per cent have hired an in-house credit controller.

Only nine per cent have used invoice discounting and eight per cent factoring, two effective means of plugging a cash flow gap and now widely recognised as good alternatives to mainstream funding methods.

GREG JONES

Greg Jones, NatWest and RBS MD of business and commercial banking in the South East, said: "Bad debts and late payment of invoices are endemic for UK businesses.

"For more than one in 10 (12 per cent) of firms, over 60 per cent of all their invoices are paid late, causing major cash flow problems.

"What's concerning is that so few are making use of services from their bank to help alleviate the problem. The reality for most small businesses is they are too busy to spend time chasing payment and managing debtors."

Federation of Small Businesses spokesman Stephen Alambritis said: "Poor payment practices can drastically affect cash-flow for small firms at a time when business owners are doing their best to hold on to precious funds.

"Indeed, figures from BIS show that late payments were responsible for some 4,000 business failures in 2008 alone.

"Since the downturn we have been urging businesses and agencies in both the public and private sector to sign up to the Prompt Payment Code to highlight best practice and help boost the cash-flow of small firms during these tough times."

The NatWest/RBS research also spotlighted sectors worst hit by bad debt, with the wholesale industry at number one with 93 per cent of firms suffering late payments during the year.

Other big sufferers were manufacturing (81 per cent), construction (80), business services (72) and retail (66).

The AAT survey showed estate agents came bottom of a survey by paying 18 days later than agreed terms, while painters and decorators tended to pay on time. Other bad payers surveyed included taxi firms and solicitors.

AAT spokesman Tom Kelman said: "Late payments can cause a domino effect, particularly when people are struggling with cash-flow. I'd like to see estate agents see the error of their ways and follow the fine example of prompt payers, the painters and decorators."

His top tips to ensure prompt payment:

- Credit-check new customers;
- Communicate your payment terms to customers;
- Consider offering a discount for those who pay within a certain timescale;
- Don't be afraid to chase late payments;
- Put time aside each week to deal with credit control.

He added: "Cashflow is essential to SMEs and should be viewed as priority. By taking control of who is due to pay you and when, you can help to minimise late payments."

Clearing the air

ASH from the volcanic eruption in Iceland led to misery for thousands unable to fly from or get back to the UK by air, but where does that leave them legally?

A Kent firm reckons the legal situation could be as murky as the clouds causing planes to be grounded.

Edward Foster, of Fosters Law, in Folkestone, said: "Essentially you have a contract with the airline to get you from A to B, so that means the airline should, if necessary, try to reroute your journey, thereby fulfilling their obligations.

"However, if a flight is cancelled, or delayed for more than five hours, and you are flying from an EU airport or from an airport outside the EU to an EU airport on an EU carrier, under EC Regulation 261/2004 – it is always a help to quote this – you will be given a choice between a refund or rerouting to your final destination. Under 261/2004, you are not entitled to reimbursement of any other components of your trip, such as hotel costs.

Extraordinary

"If there is a delay in getting to your destination due to rerouting, you are entitled to compensation depending on the length of journey and the delay. However, the airline is not obliged to pay compensation if it can prove the cancellation was caused by what is called 'extraordinary circumstances, which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken'."

He said the crisis had raised many more questions and equally difficult answers.

Early contacts, if the airline is unresponsive, should be the Air Transport Users Council at www.auc.org.uk; and the European Consumer Centre Network, www.ukecc.net – for when complaints concern European flights booked and operated outside the UK. If flights were part of a holiday package and the tour operator is unhelpful, contact Consumer Direct at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk.

ACCOUNTANCY and business advisory firm Reeves and Neylan has raised £1,700 for its 2009 designated charity, Playing for Success.

The scheme uses sport – Kent County Cricket Club, Ebbsfleet United FC, Margate FC and Buckmore Park kart circuit – as a motivational tool and focuses on raising literacy, numeracy and ICT standards among nine to 14-year-olds.

Receiving the cheque, Playing for Success trustee Anne Ray said: "We're very grateful for all your hard work and generosity. You have made it possible for many more children to benefit from our programmes."

Almost 250 employees within Reeves and Neylan's four offices – Canterbury, Chatham Maritime, Gatwick and London – raise funds each year from dress-down days, cake bakes, donations from golf days, and other events.

The charity for 2010 is Demelza House.

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LAST FOUR: Sevenoaks Suns under-18s

Suns edge step closer to finals

FINALS day beckons for Sevenoaks Suns as play-off success draws into sight for two of the club's girls teams after last weekend's quarter-final victories.

The under-18s, who have been among the favourites to lift the English Basketball League's national trophy for much of the season, reached the last four without setting foot on the court, after their opponents, Nottingham Wildcats, forfeited the tie.

Going into the game as underdogs and with another fixture to fulfil at Doncaster, Nottingham failed to turn up and the Suns were awarded a 20-0 win and a place in the last four.

Head coach Len Busch learned that Nottingham would be pulling out 48 hours before the game was due to take place and admitted he was not completely surprised by the Wildcats' decision.

Fierce rivals

He said: "They had a conflict, with an under-16 game and an under-18 game, both away from home at the same time. They opted to play the under-16 game and they wouldn't have beaten us so I think that played a part in their decision. We're happy just to be through."

Busch must now prepare his side for next Saturday's season climax when the Suns play City of Birmingham Force for the right to meet Manchester Mystics or fierce rivals Haringey Angels in the final.

Birmingham, who saw off Southend Swifts a week ago, are a largely unknown quantity to the Suns but Busch, as ever, is supremely confident about his side's prospects.

"I don't know too much about them," he said. "I was surprised they beat Southend to be honest and looking at their comparative scores, I think it looks pretty good for us. Our preparation will be based on assuming we get Haringey Angels in the final and we will just play the same way against Birmingham."

The Suns' under-14s also have a semi-final to look forward to next Saturday after they beat Manchester 53-38 to set up a last-four clash with Southend.

Trip to coast for club after derby victory

Wells aim to build on Vine pre-season win

By FRED ATKINS

TUNBRIDGE Wells Cricket Club continue their pre-season preparations today with a trip to the coast to play Hastings & St Leonards Priory of the Sussex Premier League.

The Wells got their 2010 pre-season campaign off to a winning start last week, when they beat Kent Premier League rivals Sevenoaks Vine by 24 runs at The Nevill Ground (pictured).

In the absence of regular skipper Mark Smith, Richard Cutts led the side as they posted 160 for 6 from 40 overs on a friendly surface for batsmen.

The Wells lost both openers cheaply, with Sam Stickler making just two before he was caught by David Harkin off James Day and Qasim Omar then bowling Nigel Keess to leave the home side struggling on 14 for 2.

However Cutts, who made 34, added 74 for the third wicket with Simon Routh to steady the ship.

A late salvo from Mark Alexander (47), who, with Michael Churchill smashed 42 from the last five overs, ensured a defendable target.

Just how defendable it was became apparent when Chris Fenwick ripped through the Vine's top order with 3 for 31, including the prize wicket of John Bowden for 18, as the Vine collapsed to 49 for 4.

Oliver Howick (33) and skipper Alex Rayner (35) offered some resistance, but when they departed the tail was quickly mopped up, with the Vine all out for 136 in the 36th over.

Today's game starts at 1.30pm at Horntye Park. The Wells' first competitive game of the season is next Sunday, when they host Dartford in the first round of the Conference Cup.

Sides gearing up for tough season ahead

CRICKET PRE-SEASON ROUND-UP

ONLY a fortnight remains until the cricket season gets under way and this weekend sees a host of friendly games taking place as clubs fine-tune their preparations.

Sevenoaks Vine journey into east Surrey to take on Reigate, seven days after their defeat to local rivals Tunbridge Wells, with captain Alex Rayner looking to lead his team into their Kent League Premier Division campaign on a high.

Linden Park are targeting promotion from Division 3 and the Tunbridge Wells-based club will be keen to test themselves against Minster (Sheppey), who are gearing up for a season in the league above them.

Holmesdale will be among Minster's opponents in Division 2 and the Sevenoaks-based side welcome Seaford of East Sussex to Montreal Park today.

With the Kent Feeder League renamed the Kent Regional League for the new season, Cowdrey will compete in the Premier Division and they pit their wits against Gravesend's 2nd XI this afternoon.

Kilndown & Lamberhurst, who play in the Kent County Village League, are in action against Benenden, while Sissinghurst go to Marden before taking on Benenden tomorrow.

Also in action on Sunday are Tonbridge, who will play their cricket in the Regional League Championship East this summer. Shipbourne are the visitors for their first outing of 2010.

Linden Park play their second game in 24 hours as they go up against Tunbridge Wells' Sunday XI at the Nevill, while Wrotham (St George's) have a home game against Mount as they build up to their campaign in Division 1B West of the Regional League.

Edenbridge, who play in Division 1 of the Mid Sussex League, are also in action on Sunday, at home to Brasted Invicta in an all-Kent affair at Blossoms Park.

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NON-LEAGUE PREVIEW By Tom Howard

Just 90 minutes left for Kent sides to save season

WITH each of the two title races already sewn up, only crucial play-off places and avoiding relegation will spur Kent's Ryman League clubs on this afternoon.

Folkestone Invicta and Tonbridge Angels hope to be involved in the play-off picture come the end of the season, while at the other end of the table, Maidstone United, Margate and Ashford Town all hope to avoid relegation.

Picture: STEVE TERRELL

CRUNCH TIME: Maidstone (in gold) need victory to secure their Ryman Premier status

RYMAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Aveley v Tonbridge Angels

ANYTHING less than a victory at Aveley this afternoon is likely to end Tonbridge Angels' promotion bid.

Tommy Warrilow's side have experienced a season of two halves, but he will be urging his players to give him one more performance today, knowing that a win should guarantee a spot in the end-of-season play-offs.

Bognor Regis Town v Dartford

NEWLY-crowned champions Dartford could have a say in matters at the bottom of the league as they travel to struggling Bognor Regis Town.

After receiving the league trophy at Princes Park last Saturday, manager Tony Burman has an opportunity to shuffle his squad and perhaps begin preparations for next season in Blue Square South.

Cray Wanderers v Horsham

THE Wands' first season back in the Ryman Premier has been a relative success after avoiding relegation, but Ian Jenkins' side hope to finish the campaign strongly.

Last Saturday they were narrowly beaten 2-1 by promotion-chasing Sutton United, but a home game against Horsham presents Cray with a chance to move up the league table.

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE

BIG LEAP: Tonbridge Angels (in blue) need a win to secure a play-off place

Kingstonian v Maidstone United

ROLAND Edge, Adrian Stone and Mark Corneille could miss what is a crucial game in Maidstone's season at high-flying Kingstonian.

The K's are battling to secure second spot while Peter Nott's side will need points to secure their Ryman Premier League survival.

Margate v Hastings United

MARGATE look likely to finish the season in the bottom four whatever happens against Hastings United.

Gate were in a similar position last year and finished the season fourth bottom, but escaped relegation due to a reprieve.

They may have to hope for something along the same lines this year. Iain O Connell's side should have lively winger Sam Jones available after recovering from injury.

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

Ashford Town v Chatham Town

THIS Kent derby could be significant in Ashford Town's future, as they entered the final week of the season still needing two points from their remaining two games to avoid the drop.

Ashford have struggled at the foot of the league for the entire season and could well need victory today to avoid the drop.

While the points are important for Steve Lovell's side, Chatham will aim to finish their topsy-turvy season on a high by recording back-to-back wins.

Croydon Athletic v Ramsgate

PRIDE is all Ramsgate have to play for against newly-crowned champions Croydon Athletic at the Keith Tuckey Stadium.

Jim Ward's side have endured a difficult second-half of the season, which saw their hopes of achieving a play-off spot fizzle out all too quickly. The Rams will be without midfielder Simon Pettit, who has left the club after 10 years' service.

Folkestone Invicta v Corinthian Casuals

WITH their title hopes over following a draw against Croydon Athletic on Tuesday, Folkestone can finish second with a win today.

A home game against lowly Corinthian Casuals should give Neil Cugley's side, who have already secured a play-off place, a realistic chance to finish behind Croydon.

They would have been crowned champions had it not been for a 10-point deduction for going into administration.

Brendon Cass (hip), Jimmy Jackson (back), and Jack Delo are all doubts.

Sittingbourne v Merstham

AFTER 10 games in 22 days, a tired Sittingbourne cannot wait for the season to be over as they host Merstham this afternoon.

The Brickies' play-off hopes have faded during their mammoth run of games and are left fighting to end the season in the top-10. Manager Gary Abbott could give a few of his younger players a game this afternoon.

Whitstable Town v Metropolitan Police

THE Oystermen are finishing the season as one of the form teams after recording three consecutive wins to secure their place in the division for next season.

This afternoon's home game against Met Police could be caretaker manager Mark Lane's final game in charge of the side, and he will aim to finish the season on a high to enhance his chances of taking the job on a permanent basis.

NON-LEAGUE FIXTURES

TODAY

All games kick off at 3pm

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION: Bognor Regis Town v Dartford, Cray Wanderers v Horsham, Kingstonian v Maidstone United, Margate v Hastings United

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH: Ashford Town v Chatham Town, Croydon Athletic v Ramsgate, Folkestone Invicta v Corinthian Casuals, Sittingbourne v Merstham, Whitstable Town v Metropolitan Police

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

SEASON FINALE: Ben Taylor's Norton Sports face champions Faversham Town

Norton's chance to spoil Town's victory parade

KENT LEAGUE PREVIEW

HAVING clinched the championship against Corinthian on Wednesday night, Faversham Town wave farewell to the Kent League with a local derby against Norton Sports.

Norton have found Winch's Field, their temporary home, an unhappy hunting ground this season with just two wins from 14 outings, a trend which continued against Sevenoaks Town in midweek.

Despite playing with an extra man for almost an hour, Norton were unable to press home their advantage, but would love nothing more than to spoil the Lilywhites' party today.

Victory for Faversham would see them exit county football on the back of seven consecutive away wins, while Norton have lost three of their last four.

Third plays second at Eden Park Avenue as Gary Gorman, the division's top marksman, looks to fire Beckenham Town to victory against Herne Bay.

The hosts will be looking to preserve an unbeaten home record that stretches back to last year but Bay have been exceptional on the road, losing only once since November.

Hythe Town travel to Erith Town today but their season still rolls on with a game against Sevenoaks Town still to come on Monday. Cup exploits eventually cost Hythe success in the league and today sees two of the division's most inconsistent sides go head-to-head.

Lordswood and Corinthian have both had seasons to forget at the foot of the table and they meet at Martin Grove this afternoon, while Erith & Belvedere's miserable second-half of the season finishes with a trip to Tunbridge Wells.

KENT LEAGUE FIXTURES

TODAY

All games kick off at 3pm

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Beckenham Town v Herne Bay; Erith Town v Hythe Town; Fisher v Holmesdale; Greenwich Borough v Deal Town; Lordswood v Corinthian; Norton Sports v Faversham Town; Tunbridge Wells v Erith & Belvedere

MONDAY

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Hythe Town v Sevenoaks Town (7.45pm)

Wells bid to finish on high

Larkin expects final push to secure a top-10 finish

By FRED ATKINS

Tunbridge Wells v

Erith & Belvedere

KICK-OFF 3PM AT CULVERDEN STADIUM

THE Kent League season comes to an end for Tunbridge Wells this afternoon as they look to sign off the campaign with a third successive victory.

Erith & Belvedere arrive at Culverden a shadow of the side which looked like contesting the title for several months, but Wells manager Martin Larkin insists there will be no letting-up from his players today.

Positive

The Wells, who won 2-0 at Holmesdale last Saturday to stretch their unbeaten run to four games, will secure a top-half finish if they better Deal Town's result at Greenwich Borough – something Larkin says would represent a positive season.

"If we don't do well on Saturday, we can't put it right for a couple of months," he said. "We're unbeaten in four and it would be nice to win our last game at home and keep a clean sheet. Depending on results elsewhere, we could even nick eighth place – a top-half finish would be a real achievement.

"We'll be going into it as we would a mid-season game – if we can get to a point where we can give some different players a run-out, great, but we're treating it just like any other game."

NO LET-UP: Martin Larkin says his team will push to the final whistle

The Deres' downturn in fortunes over the second-half of the season has been astonishing, with a 14-game winless run only ended by Monday's 2-1 victory at Fisher.

Managerial changes and player departures have left today's visitors scrabbling in the lower reaches of the Kent League, but Larkin is under no illusions today's game will be a tough exercise.

He said: "My scouting reports suggested they've got a mix of reserves and first-teamers playing at the moment, but they'll be very keen to do well and impress for next season.

"They'll work hard and we need to combat that in our play. They are a big club and we will show them the respect they deserve, but not too much."

Ben Palmer scored his first goal for the Wells in the win at Holmesdale to stake his claim for a starting place today, but the home side will be without striker Benji Agana and defender Perry Spackman, who are both missing through suspension.

Pictures: NICK DUNGAN

SUSPENDED: Striker Benji Agana will miss Tunbridge Wells' last game of the season

Last chance to avoid drop or take next step

KENT COUNTY LEAGUE ROUND-UP

TONBRIDGE Invicta play their final game of the Premier Division season away to Cray Valley this afternoon, needing to get at least a point to stand a chance of staying up.

Their hopes were hit last week after they were beaten 4-1 by Canterbury City in what was their final home game of the season.

Even a win might not be enough to save Invicta, with their rivals all having games in hand.

Rusthall, who are guaranteed a mid-table finish, host defending champions Hollands & Blair at Jockey Farm.

AFC Sevenoaks still have an outside chance of claiming the Division Two East title, but will need to beat Malgo at home this afternoon.

Hawkenbury can do them a favour by beating Bredhurst Juniors, who led the league after last Saturday's results at the Rec.

Tenterden and Pembury, who are both running out of games if they are to avoid the embarrassment of going a whole season without a win, travel to Borden and host Chartham Sports respectively.

In the East Sussex League, results elsewhere mean Hawkhurst will finish third in Division Three, while Cranbrook's home defeat to Travaux last week cost them any chance of winning the Division Four title, although they have secured promotion.

Town exceed expectations

Hythe Town v

Sevenoaks Town

KICK-OFF 7.45PM ON MONDAY AT REACHFIELDS

SEVENOAKS Town find themselves in the unusual position of finishing their season in midweek as the Kent League concludes for the majority of their rivals today.

Hythe Town, Sevenoaks' last opponents, are in action at Erith Town this afternoon, leaving boss Simon Jones to conduct his first full training session since Christmas.

The Town manager was delighted with Tuesday's 2-1 win at Norton Sports, where goals from Alfie Keroma and Billy Shinners helped the visitors to a second win in four days, following a 1-0 triumph at Erith Town last Saturday.

Gritty

With Sevenoaks now certain to finish in the top-10, Jones reflected on what he described as an "unbelievably good season" and a gritty performance at Norton which saw the visitors battle for almost an hour with 10 men after the dismissal of Chris Walker.

He said: "We've had a little glance at the table because we set the target of finishing 10th, now that's in the bag and I think we should finish in the top six which is an unbelievably good season for us.

"I'm more than happy and the players have exceeded my expectations – it bodes well, with that squad of players for next season.

"To play almost an hour with 10 men and to come out with the result is a tremendous performance. We worked really hard for each other, kept our discipline and tried to make their play predictable, to compact the spaces and it worked wonders."

Keroma and Joe Creasey both impressed at Norton and could start against Hythe, although midfielder Joe Minter is unavailable due to personal commitments.

With their Premier Division Cup final against Herne Bay now just nine days away, Jones will use the Hythe game to experiment, with Tony Atkins, Badar Mohamed and John Maloney all cup-tied.

Pictures: NICK DUNGAN

THUMBS UP: Billy Shinners scored during Sevenoaks win over Norton and (inset) boss Simon Jones says Sevenoaks have had an 'unbelievably good season'

Unbeatable TJs aim to sign off in style

Club out to extend league run to two seasons

By FRED ATKINS

Warlingham RFC v Tonbridge Juddians RFC

KICK-OFF 3PM AT HAMSEY GREEN

THE latest landmark in the brief history of Tonbridge Juddians could be reached this afternoon when the London 2 South East champions play their final league game of the season at Warlingham.

Victory would mean the club, who only formed in 1999, have completed a second consecutive season unbeaten, their run of success dating back to the arrival of coach Peter Dankert and his coaching team back in the summer of 2008.

Professional

The club won just three games in a difficult 2007/2008 league season, but the disappointment, along with a healthy sponsorship deal, proved the catalyst for adopting the professional approach that has been criticised by some rivals, but has taken them to a second consecutive title.

TJs are at full strength for today's trip to Surrey, with Nathan Peters fit to play again.

Dankert is hoping to avoid injuries ahead of next week's Intermediate Cup semi-final with Old Redcliffians, but admits there's little they can do to prevent them.

"We've just got to go out and play hard against Warlingham," he said. "At the start of the season I think they flattered themselves that they were good enough for promotion, but they are good on their day."

Yet it wasn't their day when they visited The Slade back in October and were comprehensively beaten 52-14.

"I think they were a little bit surprised by some of the things we had in store for them," Dankert said. "They've had major injuries so finishing fourth would be an achievement, but they can't get relegated or promoted so it's a bit of a nothing game really."

After a season when his side has rarely even been pushed close, Dankert feels the biggest danger is complacency.

"It's always a worry," he said. "The way we've dealt with it so far is to set a series of mini-goals and the next is to complete the season unbeaten. Mini-goal setting is important."

TJs had the luxury of a rare weekend off last week, while Warlingham, who were due to play at Hove, forfeited their game.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

DIFFERENT LEAGUE: Tonbridge Juddians, pictured against Warlingham earlier this season, travel to Surrey today with a chance to go a second season unbeaten

Cranes unleash a star in play-off

AS DEBUTS go, Christian Earle's sensational, game-turning performance for Cranbrook in last Saturday's play-off win against Uckfield will take some topping.

With Cranbrook trailing 19-0 and staring another season in Kent 1 in the face, the 6ft 4ins 18-year-old was thrown into the second row, instigating an astonishing 21-19 comeback that sealed promotion to London 3 South East for the Cranes.

"I thought we'd just thrown it away," director of rugby Mike Catt confessed. "We just hadn't turned up. Their first penalty came from the kick-off and it looked like we were going to break through all the time, but they were a very well-drilled side."

Uckfield's key player was a kicker who had a 100 per cent record for the afternoon and two penalties gave the home side a 6-0 lead at the break.

It was 9-0 shortly after the restart and when Uckfield then scored their only try, in the corner, the conversion was made.

A further penalty gave them a seemingly comfortable 19-0 lead, but with John Mayall in the sin bin for an alleged high-tackle, Cranbrook brought Earle in to shore up the pack.

"He played out of his skin," Catt said. "We were without Dave Anthony and Brad Allen who was stuck in Germany, but we finally started to win some line-out ball."

With 20 minutes left Ryan Odendaal surged to the 22 from halfway and fed Andy Clarke.

He in turn set up Tom Brooks who cut inside for a crucial try, converted by Hamish Startin.

Uckfield imploded. Clarke went under the posts and Startin converted to make it 19-14 and as the home side panicked, Tom Alderwick took a quick tap penalty and burst through the posts for the equalising try. Startin's conversion completed the comeback.

"Once we'd got the first try and you could see everyone running back to the halfway line I was confident we could do it," Catt said. "I kept thinking we were going to break through, while I never really felt they looked like scoring."

The result means Cranbrook move up to London 3 South East next season. Tomorrow they play Old Elthamians in the final of the Kent Vase, kick off 1pm.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

COMEBACK: Cranbrook battled back from 19 points down to beat Uckfield in the play-offs

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

EXIT: Sevenoaks failed to make lead count

Oaks flatter to deceive during cup semi-final

IT WAS difficult to escape the feeling of what might have been for Sevenoaks last Sunday, when they suffered a 15-18 defeat at home to Old Elthamians in the semi-final of the Kent Cup.

Playing against opponents from a higher division, the Oaks took a 10-7 lead into the interval, only to falter in the second period.

The game was played at a furious pace and the visitors drew first blood, scoring an unconverted try and penalty to go 8-0 up. However, the Oaks fought back with a try from Al Barber and a Matt Bates conversion, and a stunning penalty from near the halfway line by Bates to lead at the break.

Sevenoaks tried to press their advantage in the second period, but an interception try and a penalty left them with too much to do, despite a late, unconverted try in the corner by John Pollock.

Disappointing

Coach James Leverington felt his team had contributed hugely to their own downfall.

"It was very disappointing," he said. "If not for us gifting them two tries – they still had to run them in, but the tackling, which we had been working on, was woeful – then for us wasting five scoring chances with forward passes."

Old Elthamians felt Sevenoaks' poor handling was the difference between the sides, but Leverington only partially agreed.

"We need to learn when and when not to adjust our game in the heat of the battle," he said. "We broke their line on numerous occasions and all they had was our two mistakes really. We took two balls against the head against their none. All they had at the scrum was an illegal spin and we had more possession and territory.

"So I wouldn't say all the difference was handling errors, but they definitely organised themselves well in defence so it was important we kept composed with the final pass, which we didn't."

The cup defeat was Sevenoaks' final game of a season in which they finished third in London 2 South East.

RUGBY LEAGUE TABLES

LONDON ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
C Gravesend	26	24	0	2	625	283	342	48
2 Dover	25	19	1	5	611	349	262	39
3 Sidcup	26	18	1	7	665	370	295	37
4 Cobham	26	18	0	8	538	391	147	36
5 Beckenham	26	14	2	10	551	437	114	30
6 Chichester	26	14	0	12	496	344	152	28
7 Old Colfeians	25	14	0	11	574	488	86	28
8 Chobham	26	11	2	13	529	510	19	24
9 Wimbledon	26	12	0	14	408	468	-60	24
10 Thanet Wanderers	26	11	1	14	474	511	-37	23
11 Tunbridge Wells	**26**	**10**	**1**	**15**	**421**	**539**	**-118**	**21**
R Old Elthamians	26	10	0	16	436	441	-5	20
R Maidstone	26	1	0	25	241	939	-698	2
R Aylesford Bulls	26	1	0	25	269	768	-499	0

LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST

1 Tonbridge Juddians	**21**	**21**	**0**	**0**	**1097**	**167**	**930**	**42**
2 Hove	22	19	1	2	636	275	361	39
3 Sevenoaks	**22**	**16**	**0**	**6**	**716**	**491**	**225**	**32**
4 Warlingham	21	12	1	8	555	269	286	25
5 Lewes	22	12	1	9	448	472	-24	25
6 Old Reigatian	22	9	1	12	467	544	-77	19
7 Purley John Fisher	22	9	0	13	379	502	-123	18
8 KCS Old Boys	22	8	1	13	415	705	-290	17
9 Deal & Betteshanger	22	7	0	15	326	479	-153	14
10 Old Dunstonians	22	7	0	15	314	688	-374	14
12 Bromley	22	6	1	15	415	646	-231	13
13 Eastbourne	22	2	0	20	264	794	-530	4

KENT 1

1 Dartfordians	22	19	0	3	571	205	366	38
2 Cranbrook	**22**	**17**	**0**	**5**	**523**	**286**	**237**	**34**
3 Sittingbourne	22	12	1	9	448	369	79	25
4 Gillingham Anch	22	11	1	10	444	358	86	23
5 Vigo	22	11	1	10	327	312	15	23
6 Ashford	22	9	2	11	354	433	-79	20
7 Old Olavians	22	10	1	11	363	428	-65	19
8 Sheppey	22	9	0	13	401	448	-47	18
9 Beccehamian	21	7	1	13	342	517	-175	15
10 Guys' Hospital	21	13	0	8	589	364	225	10
11 HSBC	22	5	0	17	288	441	-153	8
12 Erith	22	4	1	17	179	668	-489	7

Kent youth bid to make up for last year's cup final defeat

SECOND CHANCE: The Kent squad hope to go one better and win the FA County Youth Cup

Kent v Sheffield & Hallamshire

KICK-OFF 2PM AT PRIESTFIELD

THE experience of losing last year's final gives Kent an advantage as they go for glory in the FA County Youth Cup final this afternoon.

The under-18 side face Sheffield & Hallamshire this afternoon at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium, the scene of Kent's 2-1 defeat to Birmingham a year ago.

After a tough cup run which saw Kent come through tricky ties away to Durham and Liverpool in the latter stages, they have earned their place in the final. With several players who faced Birmingham last year still in the team, Kent manager Ken Brooke has sensed a strong desire to make amends for last season's defeat.

He said: "There has been a common bond all season to do better than we did last year. It was a big event for everybody and that overtook the fact it was a football match – it was a case of enjoying the day and if we won it was a bonus.

"This year we are better prepared and are trying to reverse that horrible feeling we had in the dressing room. It has to make a difference and I think it gives us a slight edge."

Neither side have a particularly good record in the competition's 65-year history. Kent have never won in their three previous final appearances, while the most recent of Sheffield & Hallamshire's two victories came in 1964.

Brooke's side, backed by the Kent County Football Association, are taking it very seriously and stayed in a hotel last night as part of their preparation.

ANGELS ON THE EDGE

Only a win will do as club aim to stay in the race for play-offs

By FRED ATKINS

Aveley v Tonbridge Angels

KICK-OFF 3PM AT THE MILL FIELD

TONBRIDGE Angels travel to Aveley this afternoon knowing anything less than victory is likely to spell the end of their promotion challenge.

The Essex side have been the surprise package of the Ryman Premier, after winning promotion from Ryman Division One North last year.

Having shrugged off an indifferent start to the campaign, the Millers have surged into the play-off places, although a six-game unbeaten run came to an end on Tuesday night when they lost their derby with Billericay.

"They've done a great job," Angels manager Tommy Warrilow admitted. "Because, anyone who thought the Ryman Premier Division was going to be a stroll in the park were in for a shock."

The Angels went into Thursday night's game at Wealdstone knowing two wins from their final two games would guarantee them a play-off place, while anything less would leave them looking for favours from other clubs.

Speaking before the Wealdstone game, Warrilow said: "If we could win at Wealdstone that would take them out of the equation, although Aveley were playing Horsham at Crawley, which is a lovely surface to play on.

"But it's in our hands and the most important thing at this stage of the season is not lose, because you never know what's going to happen elsewhere.

"Margate could beat Hastings and Maidstone could beat Kingstonian [on Saturday], so we could go above them."

The hectic schedule has inevitably taken a toll. After a heroic fight-back from 2-0 down to beat Harrow 3-2 last Thursday, the Angels seemed to run out of steam when they lost 2-0 to Boreham Wood less than 48 hours later.

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE

COSTLY DEFEAT: Angels' striker Paul Booth trying to find his way past a Boreham Wood defender last weekend

The pivotal moment came on 65 minutes when Scott Kinch was shown a second yellow card and Wood scored the opening goal from the ensuing free-kick.

"I'll take the blame for that," Warrilow said. "I was about to take Kinchy off, but I got a shout that Liam Harwood was struggling. I should have stuck to my guns."

Warrilow defended Kinch, saying: "It wasn't a malicious tackle. The first yellow card was soft and that's the way the boy plays the game, he's wholehearted. They [the Boreham Wood players] were all round the referee, but that's part of the game now. I'm more annoyed at myself."

Warrilow asked for and got a reaction at Hornchurch on Tuesday night, when after falling behind on 28 minutes they got a 1-1 draw thanks to Sonny Miles' equaliser six minutes after the break.

"In the last two minutes there were a couple of hairy moments, but other than that the draw was the least we deserved," Warrilow said. "Their goal was just a complete fluke."

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08 08 Discovery 3 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Zermatt Silver with Ebony Black interior 17408 Miles, Nav £34995
09 09 Discovery 3 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Bali Blue with Jet Black Grey cloth interior 10004 miles £36991
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07 57 2.7 TDV6 HSE 5 dr Auto Java Black with Ebony Black interior 29512 Miles, 19" Alloys, Climate £32995
08 08 3.6 TDV8 HSE 5 dr Auto Rimini Red with Alpaca interior 6580 Miles, 19" Alloys £39995
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